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cover story

Lesbian heroes vs. breast cancer

36 She may be the most famous, but Melissa Etheridge is only one of thousands of lesbians who have heard the frightening diagnosis "You have breast cancer." Health advocates and women who have faced the disease hope that the singer's visibility will guide more lesbians to healthier lives **PLUS** One lesbian's journey from cancer patient to activist

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The Advocate

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Assessing Kerry

I don't agree with everything the Kerry-Edwards ticket stands for—in particular, their stand against same-sex marriage—but Bush is against gays everywhere. If Bush stays in the White House, he could appoint four members of the Supreme Court, which will shape America for the next 40 years. Do we want to take 50 steps backward? Kerry has always been in support of gay rights and

truth. In the interview he states that there aren't enough votes to repeal DOMA. If that is the case, then there certainly aren't enough votes to pass civil unions legislation. Say it, Senator Kerry. Don't offer a civil union you can't deliver.

The only thing worse than Kerry's historical amnesia and his pandering are his remarks that he "pays a price" for supporting us and we need to get out there and put him in the White House or else we

equal rights to such a large segment of our population? I am a very embarrassed heterosexual female in her 50s who thinks it's downright disgusting.

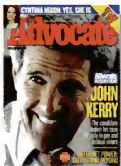
Maria Youskevitch, Jackson, N.J.

I would suggest that Mr. Kushner read the words of two people: Machiavelli and Josef Goebbels. Both of them said in essence that the best way to control a nation is to instill fear into the people. History has shown that it works, and November 2 will once more demonstrate the efficacy of this policy.

Peter Kirsch, via the Internet

"Kerry has always been in support of gay rights and equality. Bush will not even consider that."

—HERB BRAKE, Jonesboro, Ark.



equality for all. Bush will not even consider that for us.

Herb Brake, Jonesboro, Ark.

Why didn't you nail Kerry on his state's rights stance regarding gay marriage? As any thinking person knows, civil rights should never be put to a vote. If our Civil Rights Act of the past had been, there would still be state bans on interracial marriage. Another disturbing aspect of this position is that Kerry becomes the Great Divider he accuses the Shrub of being. Shame on you.

Nancy A. Drigotas, Ajo, Ariz.

The fact that John Kerry does not support marriage equality is not the reason I don't like him. I dislike Kerry because he supports a "separate but equal" solution (civil unions), and he bases that solution on public opinion ("a majority of Americans believe that marriage is between a man and a woman").

I would rather hear Kerry unabashedly state that he will do nothing to advance the cause of marriage equality if he is elected. That is the

are doomed. That sounds frighteningly similar to Dick Cheney saying that if we vote for Kerry, the terrorists will strike. Would Kerry like an honest comparison between the price he pays for being a politician and the price we pay for being LGBT? I look forward to the day that the LGBT community tells candidates how much they owe us instead of being chastised when asking for justice.

Patrick Connors, San Francisco, Calif.

Kushner on America

Applause and a standing ovation for Tony Kushner's anti-Bush article in your October 26 issue ["An Unnecessarily Pre-Election Day Splenic"]. Thank you, Mr. Kushner, for finally putting so eloquently into words what I feel and have thought (along with millions of other Americans) for the past four years! America has become the bully of the world, and the hypocrisy of our actions is unconscionable. How can we be fighting for so-called democracy in a foreign country while not affording

Generation quiet

Barry Hayes's description of being a mole in a Republican campaign organization provides a chilling but not surprising insight into "their" homophobia when no one else is around ["Hiding Among the Bushies," October 26]. I was not surprised that when he resigned, Hayes did not confess that he was gay or a Democrat. "It wouldn't have mattered anyway," he concluded. I disagree.

Stephen Karam wrote an insightful My Perspective column for the October 14, 2003, issue of *The Advocate* that I've kept for inspiration. He said that when we play the game of "don't ask, don't tell" in our everyday lives, we passively allow homophobia to flourish. How else can "they" come to know us and put a face on their prejudice if we're never out? Perhaps it would not have mattered if Hayes had confronted his GOP colleagues, but no one will ever know.

Steward LaCase, Tucson, Ariz.

AIDS redux

The My Perspective column by Ed Ishmael, "It Hasn't Gone Away" [October 26], really hit home with me. I owned a gay bar through the '80s and '90s at the height of victims dying of AIDS. Many bar owners say they feel like something of a parent figure to some of their employees and even some customers. I felt that way, and the endless hospital visits, wakes, funerals, and memorial ►

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Reader comments from www.advocate.com

In the October 26 issue, we asked:

If Bush's antigay rhetoric is chiefly to get him reelected, would you expect him to be less antigay in a second term?



● "If Bush is reelected, he intends to follow through on his antigay efforts. He believes his actions are guided by God, so what he seeks to do has a religious imperative."

● "I would expect him to be even more vitriolic and homophobic. Reelection would 'prove' to him that he is right to be so far-right."

● "The question is, Why would we give Bush a chance to prove how antigay he actually is by electing him to a second term?"

● "If Hitler gets Poland, do you suppose he'll settle down and agree that's enough?"

● "No! He will continue to pander to the extreme right and load the courts with antigay judges."

● "I don't believe his antigay rhetoric is solely to get reelected. This man's true colors are only beginning to be shown!"

● "What a silly question—he's going to be worse."

services for employees and customers really got to me. When they finally subsided, a younger generation came along who thought that being HIV-positive was cool and giving the gift of HIV to a friend was cool, and they even had to give having unsafe sex a cool name (barebacking).

I finally realized that the only one who was getting upset was me, so I gave up and retreated from the scene so that it was no longer a part of my life, but the memories still haunt me. I just wonder if there is another deadly disease out there that is going to come upon us just as unexpectedly as AIDS did.

Brad Ogilvie, Round Lake, Ill.

Ed Ishmael's column contains no facts with which I disagree. But he has missed an important one: A very fast-growing group of newly HIV-infected people are gay men over 50. Safe-sex fatigue is often quoted as a major reason. Drugs such as crystal meth may also play a role. As Mr. Ishmael noted, many of us have slipped up only once. Through sheer luck some were not infected, while some of us were. Anyone who was broadsided because they forgot to look left before entering an intersection will tell you how they wished

they could turn back the clock. I am certain most of us who are positive would like to do the same.

Since the effects of HIV on the over-50 crowd are just getting attention, we don't yet know how they will pan out. While it's important for anyone who is positive to try to stay healthy, it's even more important for those of us over 50. And obviously, we shouldn't infect anyone else. This means getting tested and being honest about the results with potential sex partners even if that means rejection. Finally, we who are positive should be the ones who always insist that condoms are used.

John DesMarteau, Washington, D.C.

No lesbians allowed

While spending a semester of college studying in Amsterdam, I came to realize that the city I had thought was the "gay capital" of the world was actually the "gay men's capital." As an avid feminist and a gender studies major, I was devastated to realize that sexism and gender marginalization existed even in such a seemingly inclusive queer community. Since returning home, I've come to realize that this lesbian marginalization is pervasive in all facets of life.

I have read *The Advocate* for

many years and have been generally impressed with your attempts to include equal coverage of both gay men's and lesbians' issues, but the recent interview with Tyra Banks regarding *America's Next Top Model* [Big Gay Following, October 12] only reinforces the misogyny and lack of visibility for lesbians in America. Her comment "Everything's gay on *America's Next Top Model*. It's a gay man's paradise," while probably accurate, only serves to reinforce that gay men are the primary constituents of queer culture, and lesbians, while just as queer and present as the men, are relegated to a secondary position. Perhaps I'm making a mountain out of a molehill, but it's comments like this that make me wonder just how far feminism has come. If women can't be treated equally in the queer community, where else can we go?

Sarah Wilson, Centennial, Colo.

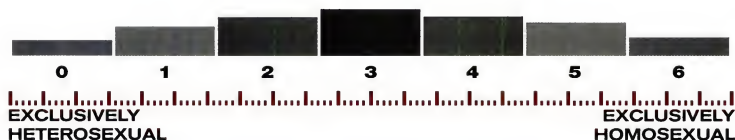
Correction

The producers of *He's a Lady* did not consult the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation "at the outset," as *The Advocate* reported in our October 26 story "Dude Looks Like a Lady." GLAAD contacted the producers after having seen a press release about the show.

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Kinsey scale?**



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Why Mom won't get married

"Don't you and Ann *want* to get married?" When same-sex couples in San Francisco began marrying last February, I immediately called Mom. She and Ann have been together 20 years. They fell in love in Ventura County, Calif.—the same county where a judge took my mother's children away from her, arguing that her "alternative lifestyle" made her unfit to parent.

That was the era of growing hysteria over a disease that was killing primarily gay males. The American Psychiatric Association had removed homosexuality from its list of mental disorders a decade earlier, but the stigma attached to gay parents as "mentally ill" persisted.

How many children passed each other on highways across America every other Friday and Sunday evening during those dark years, permitted to see loving parents only two weekends a month?

These days most gay parents keep their children. National focus has shifted from whether gays and lesbian can raise well-adjusted kids to whether they can legally commit to a marital relationship.

For 20 years Mom and Ann have shared a bed, a house, their families, and their lives. I presumed—after San Francisco mayor Gavin Newsom authorized marriage licenses for same-sex couples—they would share nuptials.

I was wrong.

"We're not getting married," Mom said. Ann added, "Marriage is a religious institution. People shouldn't marry unless they belong to a church."

"So I shouldn't be allowed to marry?" I spluttered in agnostic indignation.

"Correct."

Well. My partner, Jonathan, and I were unofficially married at a PFLAG fund-raiser. He donned a white dress

and I wore a tuxedo. Most days that Polaroid is commitment enough. But what if we wish to marry legally? What would it feel like to arrive with Jonathan at the courthouse, only to be told, "You're not allowed to marry"? What would it feel like to get married, only to be told that the marriage license wasn't legal?



Melissa Hart

It would hurt, as deeply as it hurt a little girl to wave goodbye to her mother, knowing it would be 10 days before she could see her again.

"It's heartbreaking," said Art Adams, who, with his partner, was the first to be denied marriage rights in San Francisco after the state supreme court ordered the marriages to stop and invalidated all 4,161 licenses given to same-sex couples.

The American Bar Association, like the APA before it, is ahead of

public opinion, opposing "any federal enactments" that would hinder "the authority of states to regulate marriage within their borders." The ABA is also ahead of my mother, who didn't write letters to her representatives protesting the proposed anti-marriage amendment to our Constitution. My disabled brother now lives with her, and she remains closeted, terrified of losing a child again.

I wrote letters to local politicians for months. I like to think Oregon senator Ron Wyden and representative Peter DeFazio voted "nay" on the amendment partly because Melissa Hart from Eugene has two mommies.

Not that I don't still question the idea of marriage. Why would anyone want to get married? Isn't marriage an archaic ritual originally designed so a father could bestow possession of his daughter upon another man? Why would a feminist participate in such a patriarchal ceremony?

But the fact remains that I long to invite Jonathan's and my friends and family to celebrate our union. I want our country to recognize that union in matters of health care and child custody—basic protections generally denied to same-sex couples.

Yes, many employers offer domestic-partner benefits. Perhaps I should be content with those. But I yearn to know the sweetness of that first moment Jonathan addresses me as "wife." The title carries tremendous weight. It reminds me of the word "mother"—a role my mother was denied.

As adults, my siblings and I have helped her reclaim that title. How I'd love to assist her in claiming the right to be a wife as well... just in case she changes her mind and says, "I do." ■

Hart is the author of Long Way Home (Windstorm, 2000).

I like to think Senator Wyden and Representative DeFazio voted "nay" on the constitutional amendment partly because Melissa from Eugene has two mommies.



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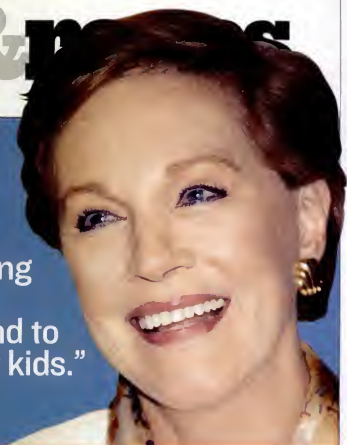


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rants & raves

"I'm that odd mixture of, on the one hand, being a gay icon and, on the other hand, having grandmas and parents being grateful I'm around to be a babysitter for their kids."

—Julie Andrews, as quoted by *The [Manchester, U.K.] Guardian*, October 14



"Stanwyck wasn't a lesbian.... She was maybe in love with two women, but I don't think anything ever happened.... Women sometimes fall in love with other women."

—Victoria Wilson, biographer for Barbara Stanwyck (left), as quoted by Michael Musto in the October 13 issue of *The Village Voice*



"We're not going to sing it to each other because that would be creepy."

—Barry Manilow, introducing a duet he sang with Brian Darcy James at an October 7 concert at Madison Square Garden, as quoted by the *New York Daily News's Daily Dish*, October 14. A Manilow rep later said the singer was "very sorry if he offended anyone" but declined to comment on Manilow's sexual orientation.



"Lesbianism is so rampant in some of the schools in southeast Oklahoma that they'll only let one girl go to the bathroom."



—Republican Tom Coburn, at an August 31 town hall meeting in Hugo, Okla., during his campaign for the U.S. Senate, as heard in a tape released by his Democratic opponent on October 11



"Raunch was often the order of the day, [including] jokes that centered on the possibility that any one of us might be gay."

—Actor Sean Astin, recounting antics on the set of *The Lord of the Rings* movies in a new memoir, as quoted by the *New York Daily News's Daily Dish*, October 11

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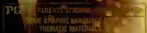
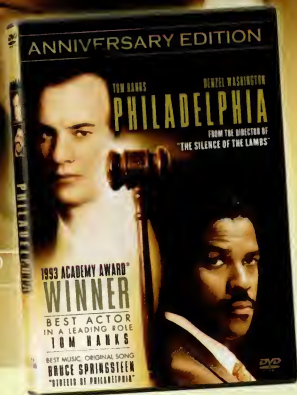
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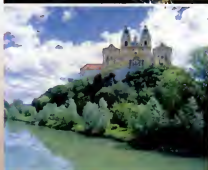
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At Issue

Republicans vs. the military

Can Log Cabin's court challenge to the military's gay ban succeed in a time of war?

In a move that surprised many legal advocates, lawyers for the gay political group Log Cabin Republicans on October 12 filed a federal challenge to the military's ban on openly gay service members, claiming that it violates their constitutional rights. But is this the right time?

Log Cabin executive director Patrick Guerriero called the lawsuit against the "don't ask, don't tell" policy "an unprecedented opportunity" given a number of recent and supportive court rulings, including the Supreme Court's pro-gay decision in *Lawrence v. Texas* last year. "We believe this particular case is something we should undertake," Guerriero said, noting that the powerful law firm of White and Case is representing his group.

But the courts are reluctant to demand changes in military policy when the armed services are staging major offensives, such as the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, said Tobias Barrington Wolff, a University of California, Davis, law professor and expert on "don't ask, don't tell." "Even though the policy is unconstitutional, you are asking the federal judiciary to step in at the moment when it is most difficult for them to do so," he argued. "Winning on an

issue like this requires collaboration with people in the field who have expertise."

For Patricia M. Logue, senior counsel at the gay rights group Lambda Legal, the issue is not whether Log Cabin should have filed the suit but rather what it does to build

consensus with other groups from this point forward. "The most important thing we ask of anyone is that they do it in consultation," she said, "and Log Cabin seems to be reaching out at this point."

C. Dixon Osburn, executive director for the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, which has been in the forefront of the battle against the military ban, said Log Cabin should have reached out to his organization sooner. "We've been pretty up-front that we plan to file [our own] suit by the end of the year," Osburn said. "It is the Log Cabin suit that comes as a surprise."

Guerriero's response was that after the suit was filed, "Dixon was the very first call I made. We have been in consultation with everyone. This is a community effort."

Shortly after Log Cabin's announcement, SLDN released an Urban Institute report estimating that 65,000 gays and lesbians are serving in the military. —*Christopher Lisotta*



Log Cabin's Patrick Guerriero (left) says now's the time to challenge the military's ban on gay soldiers.

Sandals resorts open up to gay couples | Page 16 ►

The Nation



Matt Foreman

ACTIVISM

Foreman fed up

New York City mayor Michael Bloomberg says he's gay-friendly, but his actions say otherwise, according to Matt Foreman, head of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. Foreman resigned his post on the city's Human Rights Commission in October to protest Bloomberg's opposition to a law, passed despite his veto, that requires companies doing

business with the city to provide benefits to employees' domestic partners.

Bloomberg's office said his decision to fight the measure in court has "nothing to do with the mayor's commitment to equal rights." But, Foreman pointed

out, the mayor also tried to ax a law to protect gay public school students from harassment. Bloomberg has vetoed "the two most important pieces of [gay] legislation that have come across his desk," Foreman said. —*Jay Blotcher*

ELECTION 2004

This issue of *The Advocate* went to press before November 2.

For up-to-the-minute coverage of all breaking news, please go to www.advocate.com



Ending a long-running battle with gay rights activists and lawmakers from across the globe, Sandals Resorts recently announced that it would rescind its ban on gay and lesbian couples at all 12 of its couples-only Caribbean retreats.

Officials at the resort chain claimed the change had "been under consideration for a long while, as attitudes have evolved and the company has expanded its brand." Long the target of international gay rights groups, Sandals recently learned its ads would be banned from the London subway system, and the company faced a human rights complaint in Canada.

"Maybe Sandals realized what everyone else in the travel industry already knows: GLBT travelers are a lucrative market," said Matthew Link, editor of *The Advocate's* sister travel magazine, *The Out Traveler*. "But they're also a brand-loyal market with a long memory, so I doubt you'll see gay travelers flocking to Sandals." —*Andrew Noyes*

RELIGION

Gay Anglicans hurt too

A widely anticipated Anglican report on homosexuality called October 18 for an apology from the Episcopal Church USA for the pain caused by the ordination of openly gay New Hampshire bishop V. Gene Robinson last year. It's a reasonable request, said Robinson, whose consecration sparked an international schism and the formation of the commission that generated the report. But what about the all the pain caused to gays and lesbians by the church? "I would have felt better if gay

and lesbian people had been acknowledged [in the report]," he said, "and if there had been a serious call for regret from those who have perpetrated pain against gays and lesbians."

Otherwise, Robinson, who was featured as *The Advocate's* Person of the Year in 2003, said the report did a good job of treating all members of the church with respect. It did not call for his resignation, as conservatives had wanted, but it did call on dissenting factions to work out their differences.



Gene Robinson

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HOTELS & RESORTS

The Nation

PARENTING

A nod to Ohio families

Ohio lawmakers might strongly oppose the recognition of gay and lesbian couples. But a state appeals court ruled October 12 that legislators must stop short of threatening children's welfare.

The court unanimously overturned a previous decision that barred a lesbian couple from creating a shared-custody agreement, ruling that a child "benefits from having two caregivers." The decision allows both parents in gay relationships to make legal decisions for their children.

"Same-sex couples need to be able to protect their families, which too often requires a patchwork of legal documents," said Heather Sawyer, senior counsel with Lambda Legal's Midwest regional office, who argued the case. —Kat Long

Across the Nation

San Francisco, Calif.

A civil trial in the case of Jeremy Burke, a transgendered man who is suing the city's police department for \$25 million, began October 18. Burke claims officers beat him severely when he tried to enter his partner's city housing authority-operated apartment in August 2001.

Philadelphia, Pa.

A lawsuit filed against a gay couple by a dozen conservative state legislators was thrown out by a local judge October 19. After Robert Seneca and Steven Stahl were denied a marriage license, the lawmakers sued to seek a ruling that Pennsylvania's ban on same-sex marriage is constitutional.



Atlanta, Ga.

The 11th U.S. circuit court of appeals on October 14 rejected a claim that President Bush's recess appointment of former Alabama attorney general William Pryor to that same court was illegal. Pryor's nomination was blocked by Democrats because of his extreme antiabortion and antigay views.

Washington, D.C.

At the end of a 10-city cross-country tour, the Marriage Equality Caravan held an unprecedented rally for same-sex marriage rights on the National Mall for National Coming Out Day, October 11.

The World

LITERATURE

Winning with words in the U.K.

Openly gay British author Alan Hollinghurst has not only made a name for himself in the literary world but now has set an important precedent for other gay novelists and their stories about gay lives. Hollinghurst's widely acclaimed *The Line of Beauty*, a tale of a young gay man dazzled by drugs, power, and money in Margaret Thatcher-era London, on October 19 became the first gay-

themed novel to win the United Kingdom's most prestigious literary award—the Man Booker Prize.

"It's very amazing to me that the long, solitary process of writing a novel should lead to a moment like this," the 50-year-old Hollinghurst said in accepting the award at a ceremony in London. The award came with a check for \$90,000.

The book, Hollinghurst's fourth, tells the story of Nick Guest, a gay 20-year-old Oxford graduate who ex-



Hollinghurst wins big with gay literature.

plores a world of cocaine, gay cruising, and the self-confidence of wealth, and is set against a background of social problems, including AIDS.

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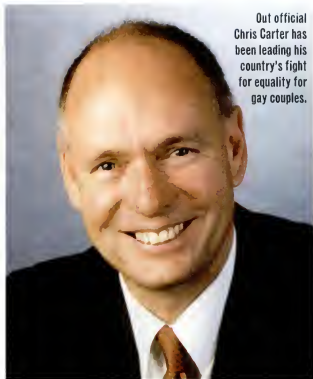
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Behind the Headlines



Out official
Chris Carter has
been leading his
country's fight
for equality for
gay couples.

Civil unions come to New Zealand

Chris Carter has fought long and hard to make his country the first in the Southern Hemisphere to provide full rights to same-sex couples

Widely known as one of the Southern Hemisphere's most gay-friendly places, New Zealand is poised to join the ranks of those nations that provide marriage or marriage-like rights to gay and lesbian couples. Earlier this year a civil union bill was passed by the New Zealand parliament, and recent polls have consistently shown that a majority of residents support it. At press time the bill was before a select committee and was expected to pass a final parliamentary vote in November.

One of the bill's strongest proponents has been Chris Carter, a representative for the ruling Labour Party, who in 1993 became New Zealand's first openly gay MP. Carter currently serves as minister of conservation, local government, and ethnic affairs. A former secondary school teacher and poultry farmer, Carter, 52, lives with his 47-year-old partner of 31 years, Peter Kaiser. During a recent Los Angeles stopover he spoke with *The Advocate* about gay rights in New Zealand. —Dan Allen

What rights do gay New Zealanders already have?

Quite a few, actually. We cannot be discriminated against in the workplace. We have [the same] property rights as married couples. Same-sex couples have the same immigration rights as heterosexual couples. Very soon gay people will have the right to adopt. The final step will be the ability to register partnerships. That will give us full equality.

How long has the fight for civil unions been going on?

The Civil Union Bill has been part of the Labour Party's policy since 1999. It's been slow in coming because a great many pieces of legislation had to be adjusted. The bill is one of two, the other being the Relationships Bill, which amends all existing laws relating to marriage. All told, it took about a year and a half to work through properly and prepare these two bills to go through parliament.

How exactly will a civil union differ from a marriage?

In practical terms it won't differ at all. The only difference will be that marriage will be available to heterosexuals but not to same-sex couples. The reason that we haven't gone for marriage is that politically that would be very difficult to pass in our parliament. But secondly, we also feel from a personal and a political point of view that the term *marriage* is loaded with tradition. Most churches are not welcoming nor accepting of same-sex unions.

Will straight couples have access to civil unions?

Yes. Our law is based on the French model, where since 1999, when civil unions came in, about 95,000 people have participated, of which about half have been straight couples.

Why would a straight couple prefer a civil union?

Our prime minister [Helen Clark] herself said she would prefer a civil union, since it doesn't have that traditional religious aspect, because she's not religious. Most New Zealanders do not identify with organized religion.

So has there been any religious opposition to the bill?

The evangelical Destiny Church organized a large protest rally at parliament in August. Their members wore black T-shirts inscribed with ENOUGH IS ENOUGH. Many of my colleagues in parliament were taken aback by the naked display of hatred and intolerance. Some opponents of the bill have even pledged to change their vote because of the rally. In effect, Destiny may have helped us.

Will you and Peter have a civil union ceremony under the new law?

Yes. We've lived together 31 years, and it'll be very nice to have an opportunity for our family and our friends to share with us the celebration of our relationship. And I guess it'll also be nice if they give us some presents.



My humble origins.



Then I got pilfered.
How brilliant!



My 15 minutes.



My captors said to keep
their identities hush-hush.

Your very own gay/lesbian
travel site, with deals that
are kind to your purse.
Not that you carry
a purse - that would be a
foolhardy assumption.



travelocity



It's off to see the world, nestled
amongst the thong-like things.



I remember it was chilly that day.



My word. Somebody's going
to have mother issues.



1. Here in LA, I feel
the need to enhance



2. Nip and tuck



3. Years off my face



I pray I don't have a
wardrobe malfunction.



Standing proud.



Duly noted.



Saluting you, too.



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Be still my concrete heart.



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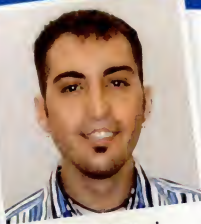
Defending the rainbow

Every year at Montclair State University in New Jersey we hold a flag-raising ceremony on National Coming Out Day. A rainbow flag is raised along with the state and national flags. This year I had the honor of speaking. There I stood on a beautiful Monday afternoon in the center of all three flags, addressing a crowd of students, faculty, family, and friends.

A few days prior, a friend asked me, "You don't have one of those rainbow stickers on your car bumper, do you?" I told her I didn't.

"I don't understand why they do that, like it's an advertisement," my friend continued. "It's like they're flaunting it. I mean, why do they think everyone needs to know?"

I didn't respond. My friend moved on to another subject while I sat there baffled by what she had said. But it gave me the inspiration for my Coming Out Day speech. For me, the



Name: **Dante Ciampi**
Age: **23**
Hometown: **Fair Lawn, N.J.**

rainbow flag is not an emblem of exploitation or sexual prowess. It is a symbol of the strength it takes for gay Americans to come out of the closet, and the strength of all who support them. It isn't an advertisement. It represents the unity of a people who deserve to be recognized and who refuse to be repressed. It is a mark of acceptance and diversity. When I see the rainbow displayed, it reminds me of our presence, our support for one another, our pride in who we are, and what our community has to offer.

I am fortunate to attend a university that offers so much support, where gay and lesbian students and faculty are a valued part of the community. We are fortunate to have the opportunity to stand in public, boasting about our pride to the entire campus. There at the podium, looking out at my peers, seeing their faces and their smiles, I envisioned the day when gays everywhere will no longer be afraid of coming out.

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COMMENTARY

The road to marriage

The results of the presidential election are almost beside the point when it comes to the long battle to win equal rights for gay couples, says leading marriage activist Evan Wolfson.



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

A makeover for the Fab 5?

No, we don't want Thom, Jai, Ted, Carson, and Kyan to change, but *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy* is ready for some new adventures. An Advocate.com exclusive commentary by Michael Matson.

ADVOCATE TRAVEL

Love in P-town

As the chill of autumn and winter sets in, get a fresh dose of summer in Provincetown—and tips for planning next year's shore—from writer David Allyn, only at www.advocate.com/travel.



You can find links to related Web sites for most stories in this issue at www.advocate.com. When you see the mouse icon at the end of a story, you will also find additional exclusive features at www.advocate.com.

From the Advocate Archives

September 30, 1997
Lesbians and breast cancer

The recent news that openly lesbian rock musician Melissa Etheridge is battling breast cancer shocked many readers of *The Advocate*. Seven years ago the magazine drew passionate responses from its readers over a cover story on lesbians battling the disease. The issue featured an image of a naked breast on the cover and an in-depth report on increased risk factors for lesbians.

"The piece that should stand out is that lesbians don't get screened as often as heterosexual women be-

cause we're not in the family planning or child health-care system," said Donna Knutson, a cancer expert for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "It's not necessarily the sexual orientation that puts you at risk, but for whatever reason we don't go to providers as often."

Risk factors detailed in the story included not having had children, heavy alcohol use, and obesity.



Put On Something Special Tonight.



HBO

the Buzz

Cumming up roses

IT'S HARD to resist making puns and sordid asides about this one. Gay fave Alan Cumming has filtered his, er, essence into a "beyond gender" fragrance dubbed Cumming, coming to stores in February.

"With a name like mine, it was made to be sprayed all over people's bodies, don't you think?" the cheeky, openly queer Scotsman quips to The Buzz.

At a recent Manhattan reception, VIPs were treated to an early whiff of the brew—slated to sell for \$69 per 3.4-ounce bottle, in

a box containing tongue-in-cheek Cumming snapshots by Steve Vaccariello. While some might expect a fruity scent, Cumming the fragrance has been described as musky, woody, and masculine (evoking "a log cabin in the woods," opined one sniffer).

For Cumming, who has tackled acting, writing, directing, and singing, this first venture into cologne creation, with creative director Jason Schell and Demeter Fragrance Library founder-perfumer Christopher Brosius, contained its share of surprises. "The little bottles that you smell the different ingredients from are the same ones that poppers come in," he recalls. "Christopher had to keep telling me I didn't need to cover one nostril when I sniffed them."



Lesbian love, actually

WHY WASN'T there a lesbian love story among all the het threads in Richard Curtis's hit holiday romance, *Love Actually*? Actually, there was—a modest one, anyway. It's included in three deleted scenes on the DVD. First, Emma Thompson's little boy has a run-in with a hard-nosed headmistress (Anne Reid, above, right)—who later shows her

soft side at home with her partner (Frances de la Tour), who's bedridden with cancer. In a third deleted scene Thompson offers condolences to the headmistress, whose partner has died. How come the subplot didn't make the cut? The Buzz thinks the cancer stuff was too blah. Writer-director Curtis saddles De la Tour with the hoariest movie-cancer clichés in the book: an irrelevant cough and a chemo-style head scarf—with a full head of hair underneath. Well, never mind; we still like seeing more of Emma Thompson. Make that *love*, actually.

The Professor's back... and this time he's gay

WHAT WAS IT that set off our gaydar about the Professor on the original *Gilligan's Island*—the spotless white shirt? The big vocabulary? Or the fact that he never hit on Tina Louise? Whatever it was, reality mogul Mike Fleiss (*The Bachelor*) felt it too: On Fleiss's new reality series, *The Real Gilligan's Island*—set to premiere November 30 on TBS—the Professor (left) is gay for true. Fleiss and company are mum so far about their gay professor's identity, but from behind he looks plenty smart. Read an exclusive interview with him in the next issue of *The Advocate*.



ALAN CUMMING: GETTY IMAGES; PROFESSOR: TBS

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Details on use of EPZICOM

- EPZICOM in combination with other antiretroviral agents is indicated for the treatment of HIV infection in adults.
- EPZICOM is one of 3 medicines containing abacavir. Before starting EPZICOM, your healthcare professional will review your medical history in order to avoid the use of abacavir if you have experienced an allergic reaction to abacavir in the past.
- In one study, more patients had a severe hypersensitivity reaction in the abacavir once-daily group than in the abacavir twice-daily group.
- EPZICOM should not be used as part of a triple nucleoside regimen.
- EPZICOM does not cure HIV infection/AIDS or prevent passing HIV to others.

Important safety information

EPZICOM contains abacavir, which is also contained in ZIAGEN® (abacavir sulfate) and TRIZIVIR® (abacavir sulfate, lamivudine, and zidovudine). Patients taking EPZICOM may have a serious allergic reaction (hypersensitivity reaction) that can cause death.

If you get a symptom from 2 or more of the following groups while taking EPZICOM, stop taking EPZICOM and call your doctor right away:

1. Fever
2. Rash
3. Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, or abdominal (stomach area) pain
4. Generally ill feeling, extreme tiredness, or achiness
5. Shortness of breath, cough, or sore throat

Carefully read the Warning Card that your pharmacist gives you and carry it with you at all times.

Now:



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Ask your doctor if new EPZICOM can be part of your HIV regimen.

NEW



Proven Therapy Made Simpler

If you stop EPZICOM because of an allergic reaction, **NEVER** take EPZICOM or any other abacavir-containing medicine (ZIAGEN, TRIZIVIR) again. If you take EPZICOM or any other abacavir-containing medicine again after you have had an allergic reaction, **WITHIN HOURS** you may get life-threatening symptoms that may include very low blood pressure or death.

If you stop EPZICOM for any other reason, even for a few days, and you are not allergic to EPZICOM, talk with your healthcare professional before taking it again. Taking EPZICOM again can cause a serious or life-threatening reaction, even if you never had an allergic reaction before. If your healthcare professional tells you that you can take EPZICOM again, start taking it when you are around medical help or people who can call a doctor if you need one.

A buildup of lactic acid in the blood and an enlarged liver, including fatal cases, have been reported.

Some patients infected with both hepatitis B virus (HBV) and HIV have worsening of hepatitis after stopping lamivudine (a component of EPZICOM). Discuss any change in treatment with your doctor. If you have both HBV and HIV and stop treatment with EPZICOM, you should be closely monitored by your doctor for at least several months.

The most common side effects seen with EPZICOM in combination with efavirenz were trouble sleeping, depression, headache, tiredness, dizziness, nausea, diarrhea, rash, fever, stomach pain, abnormal dreams, and anxiety. Most of the side effects do not cause people to stop taking EPZICOM.

Please see important information about EPZICOM on adjacent page.



GlaxoSmithKline

MEDICATION GUIDE

EPZICOM™ (ep' zih com) Tablets

Generic name: abacavir sulfate and lamivudine

Read the Medication Guide that comes with Epizcom before you start taking it and each time you get a refill because there may be new information. This information does not take the place of talking to your doctor about your medical condition or your treatment. Be sure to carry your Epizcom Warning Card with you at all times.

What is the most important information I should know about Epizcom?

- **Serious Allergic Reaction to Abacavir.** Epizcom contains abacavir (also contained in Ziagen® and Trizivir®). Patients taking Epizcom may have a serious allergic reaction (hypersensitivity reaction) that can cause death. **If you get a symptom from 2 or more of the following groups while taking Epizcom, stop taking Epizcom and call your doctor right away.**

	Symptom(s)
Group 1	Fever
Group 2	Rash
Group 3	Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal (stomach area) pain
Group 4	Generalized itching, extreme tiredness, or achiness
Group 5	Shortness of breath, cough, sore throat

A list of these symptoms is on the Warning Card your pharmacist gives you. Carry this Warning Card with you.

If you stop Epizcom because of an allergic reaction, NEVER take Epizcom (abacavir sulfate and lamivudine) or any other abacavir-containing medicine (Ziagen and Trizivir) again. If you take Epizcom or any other abacavir-containing medicine again after you have had an allergic reaction, WITHIN HOURS you may get life-threatening symptoms that may include very low blood pressure or death.

If you stop Epizcom for any other reason, even for a few days, and you are not allergic to Epizcom, talk with your doctor before taking it again. Taking Epizcom again can cause a serious allergic or life-threatening reaction, even if you never had an allergic reaction to it before. If your doctor tells you that you can take Epizcom again, start taking it when you are around medical help or people who can call a doctor if you need one.

- **Lactic Acidosis.** Some HIV medicines, including Epizcom, can cause a rare but serious condition called lactic acidosis with liver enlargement (hepatomegaly). Nausea and tiredness that don't get better may be symptoms of lactic acidosis. In some cases this condition can cause death. Women, overweight people, and people who have taken HIV medicines like Epizcom for a long time have a higher chance of getting lactic acidosis and liver enlargement. Lactic acidosis is a medical emergency and must be treated in the hospital.

- **Worsening of hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection.** Patients with HBV infection, who take Epizcom and then stop it, may get "flare-ups" of their hepatitis. "Flare-up" is when the disease suddenly returns in a worse way than before. If you have HBV infection, your doctor should closely monitor your liver function for several months after stopping Epizcom. You may need to take anti-HBV medicines.

Epizcom can have other serious side effects. Be sure to read the section below entitled "What are the possible side effects of Epizcom?"

What is Epizcom?

Epizcom is a prescription medicine used to treat HIV infection. Epizcom includes 2 medicines: abacavir (Ziagen) and lamivudine or 3TC (Epivir®). See the end of this Medication Guide for a complete list of ingredients in Epizcom. Both of these medicines are called nucleoside analogue reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NRTIs). When used together, they help lower the amount of HIV in your blood. This helps to keep your immune system as healthy as possible so that it can help fight infection.

Different combinations of medicines are used to treat HIV infection. You and your doctor should discuss which combination of medicines is best for you.

- **Epizcom does not cure HIV infection or AIDS.** We do not know if Epizcom will help you live longer or have fewer of the medical problems that people get with HIV or AIDS. It is very important that you see your doctor regularly while you are taking Epizcom.
- **Epizcom does not lower the risk of passing HIV to other people through sexual contact, sharing needles, or being exposed to your blood.** For your health and the health of others, it is important to always practice safe sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom or other barrier method to lower the chance of sexual contact with semen, vaginal secretions, or blood. Never use or share dirty needles.

Who should not take Epizcom?

Do not take Epizcom if you:

- have ever had a serious allergic reaction (a hypersensitivity reaction) to Epizcom or any other medicine that has abacavir as one of its ingredients (Trizivir and Ziagen). See the end of this Medication Guide for a complete list of ingredients in Epizcom. If you have had such a reaction, return all of your unused Epizcom to your doctor or pharmacist.
- have a liver that does not function properly.
- are less than 18 years of age.

Before starting Epizcom tell your doctor about all your medical conditions, including if you:

- are pregnant or planning to become pregnant. We do not know if Epizcom will harm your unborn child. You and your doctor will need to decide if Epizcom is right for you. If you use Epizcom while you are pregnant, talk to your doctor about how you can be on the Antidrug Pregnancy Registry for Epizcom.
- are breastfeeding. Some of the ingredients in Epizcom can be passed to your baby in your breast milk. It is not known if they could harm your baby. Also, mothers with HIV should not breastfeed because HIV can be passed to the baby in the breast milk.
- have liver problems including hepatitis B virus infection.
- have kidney problems.

Tell your doctor about all the medicines you take, including prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. Especially tell your doctor if you take:

- methadone
- Hivid® (zalcitabine, ddC)

EPZICOM™ (abacavir sulfate and lamivudine) Tablets

- **Epivir or Epivir-HBV®** (lamivudine, 3TC), **Ziagen** (abacavir sulfate), **Combivir®** (lamivudine and zidovudine), or **Trizivir®** (abacavir sulfate, lamivudine, and zidovudine).

How should I take Epizcom?

- Take Epizcom by mouth exactly as your doctor prescribes it. The usual dose is 1 tablet once a day. Do not skip doses.
- You can take Epizcom with or without food.
- If you miss a dose of Epizcom, take the missed dose right away. Then, take the next dose at the usual time.
- Do not let your Epizcom run out.
- **Starting Epizcom again can cause a serious allergic or life-threatening reaction, even if you never had an allergic reaction to it before.** If you run out of Epizcom even for a few days, you must ask your doctor if you can start Epizcom again. If your doctor tells you that you can take Epizcom again, start taking it when you are around medical help or people who can call a doctor if you need one.
- If you stop your anti-HIV drugs, even for a short time, the amount of virus in your blood may increase and the virus may become harder to treat.
- If you take too much Epizcom, call your doctor or poison control center right away.

What should I avoid while taking Epizcom?

- Do not take Epivir (lamivudine, 3TC), Combivir (lamivudine and zidovudine), Ziagen (abacavir sulfate), or Trizivir (abacavir sulfate, lamivudine, and zidovudine) while taking Epizcom. Some of these medicines are already in Epizcom.
- Do not take zalcitabine (Hivid, ddC) while taking Epizcom.

Avoid doing things that can spread HIV infection, as Epizcom does not stop you from passing the HIV infection to others.

- Do not share needles or other injection equipment.
- Do not share personal items that can have blood or body fluids on them, like toothbrushes and razor blades.
- Do not have any kind of sex without protection. Always practice safe sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom or other barrier method to lower the chance of sexual contact with semen, vaginal secretions, or blood.
- Do not breastfeed. Epizcom can be passed to babies in breast milk and could harm the baby. Also, mothers with HIV should not breastfeed because HIV can be passed to the baby in the breast milk.

What are the possible side effects of Epizcom?

Epizcom can cause the following serious side effects:

- **Serious allergic reaction that can cause death.** (See "What is the most important information I should know about Epizcom?" at the beginning of this Medication Guide.)
- **Lactic acidosis with liver enlargement (hepatomegaly) that can cause death.** (See "What is the most important information I should know about Epizcom?" at the beginning of this Medication Guide.)
- **Worsening of HBV infection.** (See "What is the most important information I should know about Epizcom?" at the beginning of this Medication Guide.)
- **Changes in body fat.** These changes have happened in patients taking antiretroviral medicines like Epizcom. The changes may include an increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the back, chest, and stomach area. Loss of fat from the legs, arms, and face may also happen. The cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known.

The most common side effects with Epizcom are trouble sleeping, depression, headache, tiredness, dizziness, nausea, diarrhea, rash, fever, stomach pain, abnormal dreams, and anxiety. Most of these side effects did not cause people to stop taking Epizcom.

This list of side effects is not complete. Ask your doctor or pharmacist for more information.

How should I store Epizcom?

- Store Epizcom at room temperature between 59° to 86° (15° to 30°C).
- Keep Epizcom and all medicines out of the reach of children.

General information for safe and effective use of Epizcom

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for conditions that are not mentioned in Medication Guides. Do not use Epizcom for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give Epizcom to other people, even if they have the same symptoms that you have. It may harm them.

This Medication Guide summarizes the most important information about Epizcom. If you would like more information, talk with your doctor. You can ask your doctor or pharmacist for the information that is written for healthcare professionals or call 1-888-825-5249.

What are the ingredients in Epizcom?

Active ingredients: abacavir sulfate and lamivudine

Inactive ingredients: Each film-coated Epizcom Tablet contains the inactive ingredients magnesium stearate, microcrystalline cellulose, and sodium starch glycolate. The tablets are coated with a film (Opadry® orange YS-1-13065-A) that is made of FD&C Yellow No. 6, hypromellose, polyethylene glycol 400, polysorbate 80, and titanium dioxide.



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August 2004 MG-027

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HIV544R0

August 2004

S P O R T S

Weight of the world

Openly gay Chris Morgan hopes to win a world weight-lifting title **BY LISA NEFF**



Chris Morgan wins gold at the 2002 Gay Games.

Chris Morgan's path to becoming one of the strongest men in the world began at a London gym seven years ago. A fellow weight lifter glanced at the Brit and remarked: "You realize, you're very, very strong and what you're doing is a sport." Morgan took the observation to heart.

At the end of November the 32-year-old will become the first openly gay man to compete in the world championship final of the World Drug-Free Powerlifting Federation. The brawny 165-pounder, who goes by the Internet nickname Chunky Muscle, says he's "put together with nuts and bolts for joints and big guns for quads." Straight guys ask him how much he benches. Gay guys ask if he could bench-press them. Americans think he's a curiosity. Morgan's not sure if it's his accent, his sport, or his build.

In the championship, to be held in Atlanta, he wants to lift a personal best, challenge homophobia, and get rid of stereotypes, like the one about gay men being lousy at sports, especially strength training. "We all try to make a difference in our own way," he says. "When I am there, standing with the strongest men in the world, I'm demonstrating that we are as equal as anybody, that we can compete with anybody. In Atlanta I am going to give the performance of my life."

Morgan's life hasn't always been this focused. Currently a financial adviser by day, he played competitive rugby until the early 1990s, when he was permanently sidelined by injuries. Not only was his body damaged, he was also ending a relationship with a woman and coming to terms with his sexuality. (He is currently single and jokes that he's married to weight lifting.) "My coming-out coincided with when I lost my sports career, and I sort of exchanged being a first-class athlete for the club scene," he remembers.

But then in January 1998 came that casual conversation

at the London gym that sent Morgan in a new direction. He decided to compete in the 1998 Gay Games in Amsterdam and took home a silver medal. He returned to the 2002 Gay Games in Sydney to set records for the squat, the dead lift, and total pounds lifted. He won gold.

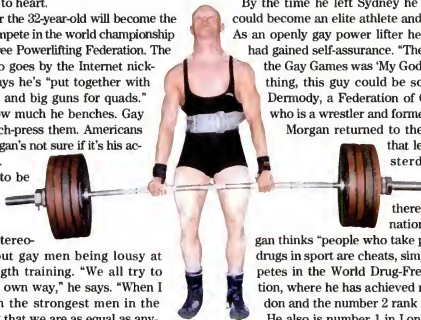
By the time he left Sydney he was confident that he could become an elite athlete and win at the world level. As an openly gay power lifter he had few peers, but he had gained self-assurance. "The validation Chris got at the Gay Games was 'My God, this guy has got something, this guy could be something,'" says Gene Dermody, a Federation of Gay Games spokesman who is a wrestler and former coach.

Morgan returned to the basics, to the system that led to his victory in Amsterdam. He began to advance. In the world of power lifting there are four primary international organizations. Morgan

thinks "people who take performance-enhancing drugs in sport are cheats, simple as that." So he competes in the World Drug-Free Powerlifting Federation, where he has achieved number 1 status in London and the number 2 rank in the United Kingdom. He also is number 1 in London and in the top 5 in England in the British Weight Lifters Association.

Morgan's personal bests are a 513-pound squat, 254-pound bench press, and 557-pound dead lift. Quite the heavy loads. The power to hoist such weight is not all brute strength—though physical force is crucial. "I think lifting is 50% in the mind and 50% in the muscle," Morgan says. "You have to be able to recruit both to succeed. It is no good being a strong person if your mind can't muster the mental strength to move your muscles. No, it is not always the strongest man who wins. Sometimes the clever man wins." ■

Neff is the managing editor of the Chicago Free Press.



Better luck *next time*

Promising openly gay and lesbian candidates across the country fell by the wayside in 2004. Surprisingly, their sexuality was not an issue with voters

BY SARAH WILDMAN

Despite a banner year for out candidates in statewide and local elections, gay men and lesbians will have no more representatives on Capitol Hill than before the 2004 election cycle. Incumbents Tammy Baldwin of Wisconsin and Barney Frank of Massachusetts, both Democrats, and Jim Kolbe of Arizona, a Republican, will keep their seats, but other openly gay and lesbian candidates failed to survive a brutal primary season.

Yet none of the three most promising gay or lesbian candidates who weren't on the ballot on November 2 lost their primary because of some top-down culture of antigay bias. (Three were endorsed by the Gay and Lesbian Victory

Fund. A fourth didn't get the group's nod.) Instead, old-fashioned competition and exhaustion, factors apart from sexual orientation, ended their candidacies. In two cases, in fact, homophobia was not an issue; the district was so progressive, there was a crowded field clamoring for a spot on the Democratic ticket.

What emerges from the congressional battles of 2004, then, is a picture of gay and lesbian candidates who ran solid campaigns that weren't focused on sexuality at all. "These are hotly sought-after progressive seats," says the Victory Fund's Robin Brand, vice president of campaigns and elections. "That these candidates were gay was not really a factor. None had antigay attacks against them." They simply didn't win.

Take the case of Cathy Woolard in DeKalb County, on the outskirts of the city of Atlanta. In March, Democrat Denise Majette, an African-American woman, a Democrat, and the representative for Georgia's fourth district, declared that she would not be running for reelection to Congress. Woolard, a popular local political figure with seven years as Atlanta city council president on her résumé, announced she would resign from the city council and run for Majette's seat. Unfortunately, Woolard, an out lesbian, wasn't the only one with designs on the suddenly open ticket. Liane Levitan, DeKalb's chief executive officer, quickly added her name to the slate competing in the Democratic primary. So did Cynthia McKinney, who represented the district for 10 years before losing to Majette in 2002 after making comments about President Bush and Sep-

tember 11 that were deemed incendiary.

Woolard believes that in a two-way race she might have nabbed the Democratic nomination—and in this heavily Democratic district, that would likely have meant the seat itself. "We raised almost half a million dollars in 100 days. That's really a lot," she says. The figure was a quarter-million dollars more than McKinney had raised. Woolard also garnered the coveted endorsement of *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution* as well as the local alternative weekly. But McKinney had major name recognition, a history in the seat, and widespread support among African-Americans. She won the nomination in the July 20 primary without a runoff. ►



Jim Stork



Cathy Woolard

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Tim Carpenter

"I would have loved to have been the fourth out gay or lesbian in Congress, but it just didn't work out."

—Tim Carpenter



Mike Evans

"Basically, Woolard and Liane Levitan split the white Democratic vote in the district, along with some crossover voters," says Alan Abramowitz, a political scientist at Atlanta's Emory University. "Cynthia McKinney took the large majority of the black vote and probably a small slice of the liberal white vote, and that was enough to put her just over 50%. It's a tough district for any white candidate running against a well-known black candidate—especially in a Democratic primary. Woolard was very impressive in the debates and raised a substantial amount of money, but it wasn't enough to overcome the demographics of the district and a split in the anti-McKinney vote."

Sexuality? "Never an issue," says Woolard.

Like Woolard, state senator Tim Carpenter, a candidate for Congress from the fourth district of Wisconsin, picked up an early Victory Fund endorsement this spring. Back in May the Victory Fund's Brand told the *National Journal* that Carpenter was one of their "top-priority candidates." "This is a great open-seat opportunity," she said, "and we're going to do everything we can for him." At the time Victory Fund had raised \$15,000 for Carpenter and had planned an early-June fund-raiser in Washington, D.C.

The candidate was eager to become his state's second openly gay U.S. representative. "You have someone," Carpenter says, speaking of himself in the third person, "established in office for 20

years. So being openly gay is not an issue." The district is so heavily Democratic that all three Democratic candidates in the primary were unabashedly and vocally against the proposed amendment to the U.S. Constitution to ban same-sex marriage.

But in a progressive district with an open seat, Carpenter met stiff competition from Gwen Moore, an African-American woman with the solid backing of EMILY's List, the powerful pro-choice political action committee. EMILY's List poured \$600,000 into Moore's campaign. Moore, who will be the first African-American to represent Wisconsin in Congress, sewed up the Democratic primary. "In some ways I feel that I might have been meant to stay in the state senate to cover things," says Carpenter, pointing out that Wisconsin's effort to institute a state constitutional ban on same-sex marriage will come up for debate in January. "I would have loved to have been the fourth out gay or lesbian in Congress, but it just didn't work out."

As for the other two? Mike Evans, a 25-year-old running for Dick Gephardt's seat in Missouri's third district, actually picked up an endorsement from comedian Margaret Cho, while the Victory Fund deemed his campaign

a long shot. Yet having even a losing gay candidate on the slate (Evans told The Associated Press he was the first out candidate to run in a state-level race in Missouri) ensured that gay and lesbian issues were raised.

Jim Stork, a small-business owner and former mayor of Wilton Manors, Fla., didn't have a primary battle—he was the party's nominee for the 22nd district seat. Stork was a bright light for Democrats: He was given a coveted speaking position at the Democratic National Convention in Boston in July, and by early summer he had raised as much money, or more, than his Republican opponent, a 12-term incumbent. The blog Daily Kos raised \$12,000 for Stork's cause. The Web site's corre-

spondent called it "the coolest campaign [he'd] ever hung with." But in August Stork, who had campaigned aggressively all summer, abruptly took a sabbatical for medical

tests. Though only 37, he was forced to pull out of the race entirely due to a heart condition. His Web site it now reads, "To say that I am disappointed is an understatement, so I will leave it at that." ■

Wildman is The Advocate's Washington correspondent.

ELECTION 2004

This issue of *The Advocate* went to press before November 2.

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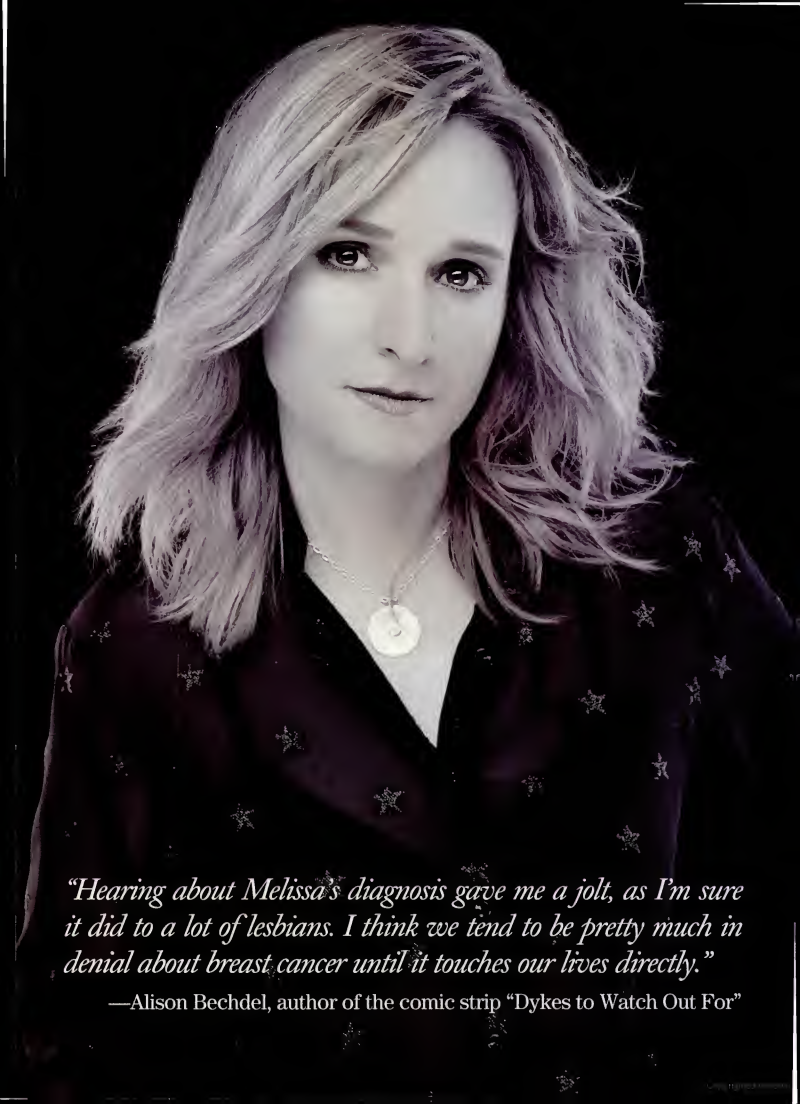
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"Hearing about Melissa's diagnosis gave me a jolt, as I'm sure it did to a lot of lesbians. I think we tend to be pretty much in denial about breast cancer until it touches our lives directly."

—Alison Bechdel, author of the comic strip "Dykes to Watch Out For"

Lesbians and breast cancer

LIFE LESSONS *from Melissa*

✓ Melissa Etheridge is now one of thousands of lesbians battling breast cancer. A special report from the women and researchers on the front lines **BY SUE ROCHMAN**

Just minutes after rocker Melissa Etheridge posted notice on her Web site October 8 that she was being treated for breast cancer, her message board was bombarded with hundreds of supportive notes from fans. "Wow, I didn't see this coming," the singer responded, writing about her diagnosis on the site. "What an unexpected journey this is."

In an instant, Etheridge had brought cancer into the nation's headlines. What impact her diagnosis will have on the health of lesbians remains to be seen, but the news came as a shock, particularly since Etheridge is only 43. (Still recovering from surgery, Etheridge had granted no interviews at press time, but she did approve of the use of her image with this story.)

"Hearing about Melissa's diagnosis gave me a jolt, as I'm sure it did to a lot of lesbians," says Alison Bechdel, author of the "Dykes to Watch Out For" comic strip, which features a lesbian character with breast cancer. "I think we tend to be pretty much in denial about breast cancer until it touches our lives directly. Even among the out activist lesbians I know who are very educated about breast cancer and prevention, it's a threatening topic. So I think the fact that everyone knows Melissa will definitely get us talking more and, hopefully, dissipate the

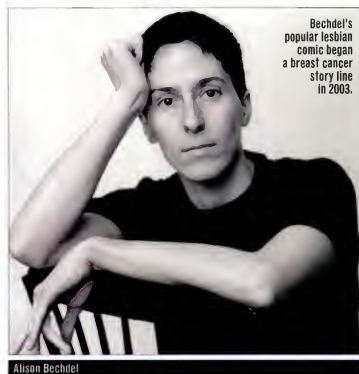
fear and denial a little bit."

Adding to many lesbians' fears is the fact that they've come to believe their risk of developing breast cancer is much greater than that of heterosexual women. It is true that studies have found that some risk factors for breast cancer—such as being overweight, smoking, and not having given birth or breast-fed—are more common among lesbians. But a recent study that compared differences in risk factors between lesbians and their heterosexual sisters did not find much disparity at all.

"What we found was that the risk was about 1% higher in lesbians," says Suzanne Dibble, cofounder of the Lesbian Health Research Center at the University of California, San Francisco, and a lead researcher on the study. But even if the risk is higher, that doesn't mean more lesbians will get breast cancer, she notes. Women with many breast cancer risk factors don't always get the disease, while some women who have none of the known risk factors do.

Noelle Mayhew was diagnosed with breast cancer in July 1999 at age 32 and "was totally blown away," she says. Mayhew had gone to see her doctor after she began experiencing pain in her right breast and "thought of cancer as an old ►

Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel



ladies' disease. Also, when you hear 'cancer,' the first thing you think is, *I'm going to die.*"

Following her diagnosis, Mayhew had a modified radical mastectomy followed by chemotherapy and radiation. Over the next several years it appeared her cancer was gone. Then in May she learned that the cancer had returned and spread throughout her body. But even that news hasn't dampened her spirit. Mayhew, who is a buyer for an arts and crafts paper store, is grateful for the support of her family and friends. In fact, on the day that she spoke to *The Advocate*, her mother threw her a surprise party at work. She mentions that she is single but is dating. And she's now in an 18-month clinical trial that is designed specifically for women with metastatic disease that is testing a new way to treat cancer. She says, "I don't plan on going anywhere."

All women are at risk of developing breast cancer; statistics indicate that the older a woman gets, the greater her chance of developing the disease. Approximately 77% of incidences of breast cancer occur in women 50 and over. It is estimated that 40,110 U.S. women will die of the disease this year.

"We need to get lesbians into routine screening because when a woman is diagnosed early her chances of surviving are much higher," says Ellen Kahn, director of the Lesbian Services Program at the Whitman-Walker Clinic in Washington, D.C. "At this point, everyone knows someone who has or has had breast cancer. It's not a foreign or intangible reality. Yet there remain lots of personal reasons why folks delay mammograms or don't do breast self-exams."

The good news is that more women are now being diagnosed early, when the disease is more easily treatable; op-

tions for treatment have improved; and many more women survive breast cancer than die from it.

"We cure two thirds of breast cancer," says openly gay breast surgeon and women's health activist Susan Love. "And when I say 'cure,' I mean that most women who have had breast cancer will not die from it. Further, even once breast cancer has spread to other parts of the body, women can live for a long time with the disease."

"There has been more research on breast cancer than probably any other cancer," Love continues, "and that, in part, is thanks to ► [Continued on page 42](#)



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Healing in her own hands

ing for our kids. My dad and I went on a medical pilgrimage across the country in search of hope.

We saw doctors at five hospitals in four cities, and five weeks later I was undergoing cryosurgery, a procedure in which doctors freeze the tumors using liquid nitrogen, in Santa Monica, Calif. After opening me up, the surgeon discovered that there was and had only ever been one tumor in my liver. The other spots were cysts and blood-density irregularities that are common in about 10% of the population. The cryosurgery worked. By August of 1995, I had finished my treatments and returned to my teaching job at

A decade ago, Meg Gaines received news that she had ovarian cancer. She beat the odds and is helping others face their fears **AS TOLD TO CHAD GRAHAM**

In January 1994, at the age of 38, I was diagnosed with what the doctor called a "small focus of clear cell carcinoma" within a "borderline tumor" in my ovary. That night, I remember sitting on the top of my basement steps in Madison, Wis., and trying to absorb the fact that I had ovarian cancer. I was scheduled for surgery to remove the tumor.

There's never been any cancer in either side of my family. I remember driving by conferences for cancer patients and being grateful that at least I didn't have to worry about that. My partner was just as stunned. Margaret and I met at a bridge game and had been together since 1989. She had given birth to our daughter five months earlier. I birthed our son, who was 3 years old at the time I was diagnosed. I was afraid for me, for her, and for our kids. At that moment, my head reeled with questions about what

was going to happen and how we were going to get through it.

The initial surgery didn't go well. As the gynecologist was removing the tumor it ruptured, spilling cells into my belly. Five months later, I began developing blood clots, some of which traveled to my lungs. By Labor Day weekend, the cancer was in my liver. Doctors tried chemotherapy—to no avail. They also said I had 12 tumors, not three as originally thought.

As I cried, wondering what I was going to tell my children, the surgeon told me to go home and think about the quality, not the quantity, of my remaining days.

I didn't take his advice. After all, I had babies, and I really wanted to live. I'm a lawyer, and I think on some level I was born a lawyer—my father is a lawyer, as were his father and grandfather. I was a public defender, and it's in me to fight for my survival. Margaret took over car-

University of Wisconsin Law School at Madison, where in 1998 I was named assistant dean for student and academic affairs.

But my fight with cancer had changed my life: I wanted to help other cancer patients get the care they need. In September 2000 my colleagues and I founded the Center for Patient Partnerships at the University of Wisconsin. The center brings together students and faculty from the schools of medicine, nursing, law, social work, counseling psychology, pharmacy, business, and industrial engineering to serve as advocates for cancer patients.

People often ask me how I survived the incredible ordeal of a cancer diagnosis. "I don't think I could make it through," they say. I tell them, "You can't know what you can make it through until you have to—you just do what you have to do." ■

Gaines is alive and well and lives with her partner and two children in Madison, Wis. In April she was awarded the Heldmann Award for Public Service.



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After recording two successful CDs in France and co-writing the bulk of legendary French singer Henri Salvador's 2000 hit album *Room with a View*, the singer-songwriter Keren Ann makes her auspicious U.S. premiere with *Not Going Anywhere*. The CD is a sumptuous acoustic pop album of 11 finely-crafted lyrical gems that are quietly waiting to be discovered.

www.kerenann.com



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Continued from page 38



"We've made a lot of progress treating breast cancer," says Susan Love, "but what we really need to learn how to do now is to prevent breast cancer from happening."

the efforts of many women. We've made a lot of progress in treating breast cancer, but what we really need to learn how to do now is to prevent breast cancer from happening."

Another important factor that determines whether women will be diagnosed early, when the disease is most treatable, is access to care. But research shows that lesbians are often worried about encountering homophobia in the doctor's office; they are also less likely to have health insurance. And not having regular access to care, which keeps women from having annual mammograms or clinical breast exams, can delay a breast cancer diagnosis.

Annie Shaw, a 57-year-old lesbian, knows this firsthand. Shaw's mother and three maternal aunts all have had breast cancer. And she works in the Lesbian Services Program at the Whitman-Walker Clinic. But a negative experience with getting a mammogram in 2001 when she didn't have health insurance kept her from getting the routine care she knew she needed.

"Even I, who knew better, couldn't call and make the appointment," says Shaw. "I even have a partner who was going to a breast surgeon every six months" because she had had a suspicious biopsy. "So I should have been first in line. But the reality was, my

own fears or my own shame kept me back."

Shaw finally went for that mammogram in August. She had breast cancer. She had surgery to remove the two tumors that were found, and she will soon begin chemotherapy and radiation. The diagnosis has been hard, but Shaw says she's pleased that she found a lesbian-friendly surgeon who put her at ease by expressing concern for both her and her partner. "My doctor told me that she thinks a breast cancer diagnosis is harder on female partners than on a husband," Shaw says, because "it puts partners in touch with their own fear of having breast cancer. And for my own partner, that has been true."

How individual lesbians view their breasts can also affect how they handle a cancer diagnosis. "I've heard plenty of butch lesbians who've had breast cancer or are at high risk for breast cancer say that they are more than happy to have their breasts removed because they don't want them and never wanted them," says Jessica Halem, executive director of the Lesbian Community Cancer Project in Chicago. Yet, she notes, there are other lesbians—bitch and femme alike—who feel their breasts are an important part of their sexuality and who choose treatments that will allow them to keep their breasts or who decide to have re-

constructive surgery.

"I still have both of my breasts. And whether I will keep them is a bridge I have to cross later," Etheridge wrote to fans in the days after her surgery. "They took out the tumor and a few lymph nodes, only one of which was positive...the sentinel node (for those that know breast cancer—speak). After that my margins are clean!" At press time, the singer was home recovering with wife Tammy Lynn Michaels, who has also declined to speak to the press.

Etheridge's diagnosis came after she discovered a lump in her breast. For Vernita Gray, it was a friend's insistence that she get a mammogram that might have helped save her life. She had a family history of breast cancer—her mother, grandmother, great-aunt, and cousins had all been diagnosed with the disease—but had not had a mammogram in over a year. When she did, in November 1995, at age 47, she was diagnosed with cancer in her right breast. Over the next eight years, it appeared that her cancer was in remission. Then in September 2003 another mammogram showed that she had a tumor in her left breast.

Gray decided to have both breasts removed and to have immediate reconstructive surgery. Initially she wasn't going to have the reconstructive surgery. "It was a challenge for me as a butch lesbian," she says. "But I'm glad I did it. I swim a lot, and I feel comfortable wearing a swimsuit. And that's important to me." ►

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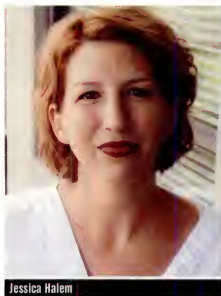
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Jessica Halem

It's been a year since Gray's surgery, but she still needs to have two more surgeries on her breasts—which she calls “my new girls”—before the process will be complete. “It's been a long and incredibly painful process,” says Gray, who is the GLBT liaison in the Cook County state's attorney's office in Chicago, “but I've been an activist for 35 years, and I'm still doing my work in the community.”

Gray's second diagnosis led to myriad other changes in her life as well. “My breast specialist said to me, ‘Let's take a look at your lifestyle,’” says Gray. So she did. Soon she was working out regularly, had changed her diet, and was no longer the bar dyke she once was. Now, she says, on Friday nights, in-



Suzanne Dibble

stead of sitting at the bar breathing in other people's cigarette smoke, “I'm at my local health food store buying tofu and nitrate-free bacon and then heading home. I hardly recognize myself.”

Halem advocates would like to see more lesbians adopt such overall lifestyle changes. They hope Etheridge's diagnosis not only draws attention to breast cancer but increases awareness about broader health issues. “It's more complicated than just saying, ‘Go get a mammogram.’ We need to talk about health as a way of life,” says Halem. “We have moved to a place where our loudest cry is for every person to have a strong, positive relationship with a [health care] provider.”

Mary Dziewieczynski, executive director of Verbena, formerly the Seattle Lesbian Cancer Project, agrees. “My concern,” she says, “it that we take a specific incident such as someone like Melissa Etheridge being diagnosed with breast cancer and put it in the larger context of health disparities and health justice and how that plays out” among lesbians. She and her group want women to understand that wellness is pride, she says: “We want gay pride to be connected to taking care of yourself.”

In the short term, though, when people think about Etheridge they are undoubtedly going to think about her struggle with breast cancer, and her fans are already trying to move that awareness into action. Virtually overnight a group of women who met on the MelissaEtheridge.com message board organized a fund-raising campaign called the Pink Bracelet Fund. Taking inspiration from the hugely popular yellow LIVE STRONG bracelets sold to support the Lance Armstrong Foundation, the pink bracelets feature the breast cancer ribbon and say BE STRONG—MLE. As of October 20 ap-

proximately 13,000 bracelets had been sold worldwide, and coordinators of the fund-raiser report the bracelets continue to sell at a rate of 1,500 to 2,000 per day. At Etheridge's request, all of the proceeds raised will be donated to the Dr. Susan Love Research Foundation.

Lesbians who have had cancer say they hope that Etheridge will continue to be an active voice. “I know if Melissa speaks out, it will really help,” says Shaw. “Especially if she were to say, ‘If you enjoy my songs, go get a mammogram.’ Sometimes it takes someone famous to get you beyond your own inertia or fear.”

Seven days after announcing that she had cancer, Etheridge posted a second letter on her Web site, letting her



Mary Dziewieczynski

fans know that she is recovering from surgery at home in Los Angeles and thanking them for their concern and activism. “Thank you for organizing and making those bracelets. I am humbled by your love and caring,” she wrote. “I will be entering the phase of chemotherapy next. Who knows what that will bring. I will be writing songs for the greatest hits album and after... (the Pink album, maybe?) I will be working on the pilot for ABC and hanging with Tammy and the kids. I imagine you will see me again around the beginning of the year.” ■

Rochman is a freelance writer based in San Francisco and medical editor for www.susanlovedmd.org.

Coming out before God

Minister Beth Stroud worked up the courage to come out to her flock. Now featured in a PBS documentary, she may face a trial to determine her future as a pastor **BY FRED KUHR**



Stroud (above, left) works with a youth group in the documentary film *The Congregation*.

One spring day in April 2003, the First United Methodist Church in Philadelphia's Germantown neighborhood was standing room only. The congregation listened intently as the Reverend Beth Stroud, the associate pastor, gave her sermon. Yet this was no ordinary Sunday service. After months of planning, and years of personal contemplation, Stroud came out as a lesbian.

"I know that God will bless my truth-telling and my risk-taking as God has blessed my ministry," she explained. "I believe that somehow, in my taking this step together with [my church], the life and light of Christ will shine in the world."

Stroud's flock gave her an emotional standing ovation, but the United Methodist Church has launched a formal in-

vestigation that could result in a church trial, with Stroud perhaps being defrocked if convicted. However, in Washington State, the Reverend Karen Dammann was acquitted in March in a similar potentially career-ending trial. A jury of 13 pastors cleared her of a charge of practices "incompatible with Christian teachings," though she declared she is a lesbian in a committed relationship.

For Stroud, a 34-year-old Arkansas native and graduate of Bryn Mawr College in Pennsylvania, fighting to keep her position is all part of what she considers her calling to ministry. "Growing up in the United Methodist Church, I got the message that Jesus loves me no matter what and that God's love is for everyone," Stroud tells *The Advocate*.

She quotes from her coming-out

sermon: "I have realized that not telling the whole truth about myself has been holding me back in my faith. I have come to a place where my discipleship, my walk with Christ, requires telling the whole truth and paying whatever price truthfulness requires."

What makes Stroud's coming-out story even more intriguing is that documentary filmmakers happened to be there to record the whole event. Alan and Susan Raymond had set out to make a documentary with the simple goal of showcasing the goings-on behind the scenes of a socially progressive Protestant church. Little did they know when they started that Stroud was a lesbian and that her public coming-out would launch a high-profile battle to keep her job. Given the notoriety of Stroud's case, and that other denominations are mulling issues such as gay clergy and marriage rites for same-sex couples, PBS is premiering *The Congregation* in December.

In the film, viewers see Stroud as preacher and youth minister, "and she's very good at it," says Susan Raymond. "So the question for conservatives is, Why can't she keep her job, especially when the congregation is supporting her? What is so threatening about her?" And the congregation does indeed support Stroud, who received not one but two standing ovations during her coming-out sermon. Its administrative council has since set up a legal fund to help her fight the judicial process.

United Methodist Church is largely seen as gay-friendly, with a tradition of advocating for the equality and civil rights of all people, including gays and lesbians. But clergy must meet requirements set out in its Book of Discipline—and currently the church draws the line at gay clergy. In May at the annual UMC

gathering in Pittsburgh, delegates reaffirmed their stance on the issue, approving this statement: "The practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching. Therefore, self-avowed practicing homosexuals are not to be accepted as candidates, ordained as ministers, or appointed to serve in the United Methodist Church."

More and more gay people of faith seem to have had revelations similar to Stroud's in recent years, says the Reverend Irene Monroe, a doctoral candidate at Harvard Divinity School. "Beth is one of the many courageous people

**"I have come
to a place where my
discipleship, my walk
with Christ, requires
telling the whole
truth and paying
whatever price truth-
fulness requires."**

who is speaking up on behalf of justice," says Monroe, who is also a friend of Stroud's. "Where it used to be only conservative religious people who stood up and broke away ideologically, now you're seeing many progressive and queer religious folks standing up and fighting for their beliefs."

For now, Stroud continues with her ministerial duties, serving the church she sees as part of her family. In fact, she says that the UMC's struggle is much like what her parents went through when she came out to them in 1990. "When I told my parents, it was not the easiest thing for them to hear. We went through some tough times," Stroud recalls. "But we love each other. We grew, and are not in the same spiritual place now. Since the church is also my family, I hope that the conversation we are having now will take us somewhere different than [where] we are right now. As my family changed after coming out to them, I hope the people in my church have the same experience." ■

Kuhr is the editor of the New England GLBT paper In Newsweekly.

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emtricitabine-tenofovir disoproxil fumarate

INDICATION: TRUVADA is for use in combination with other anti-HIV agents to treat HIV infection in adults. TRUVADA contains 2 medicines, EMTRIVA (emtricitabine) and VIREAD (tenofovir disoproxil fumarate) combined in one tablet.

- EMTRIVA and VIREAD have been studied separately. Clinical studies with TRUVADA and EMTRIVA+VIREAD are ongoing.
- Since EMTRIVA and Efavir (3TC) are similar medicines, studies using VIREAD+3TC support the use of TRUVADA. Therefore, TRUVADA should be considered as an alternative to the combination of VIREAD+EMTRIVA or VIREAD+Efavir® for someone who would benefit from a once-a-day regimen.
- TRUVADA does not cure HIV infection. No studies show the effect of TRUVADA on the clinical progression of HIV. TRUVADA should not be used as part of a triple nucleoside regimen.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION:

- Lactic acidosis (a buildup of acid in the blood) can be a medical emergency and may need to be treated in the hospital. **Call your medical professional right away** if you have nausea, vomiting, unusual muscle pain, and/or weakness.



a day!

- **Serious liver problems** (hepatotoxicity), with liver enlargement (hepatomegaly) and fat in the liver (steatosis), may occur. **Call your medical professional right away** if you have light colored stools, dark colored urine, and/or if your skin or the whites of your eyes turn yellow.
- **Flare-ups of hepatitis B virus infection (HBV):** If you have HIV and HBV, your liver disease may suddenly get worse if you stop taking TRUVADA. Do not stop taking TRUVADA unless directed by your medical professional.
- **Kidney problems:** If you have had kidney problems or take other medicines that can cause kidney problems, your medical professional should do regular blood tests to check your kidneys.
- **Bone changes:** It is not known whether long-term use of TRUVADA causes damage to your bones. If you have had bone problems in the past, talk to your medical professional before taking TRUVADA.

Changes in body fat have been seen in some people taking anti-HIV medicines. The most common side effects of TRUVADA when taken with other anti-HIV medicines are dizziness, diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, headache, rash, and gas. Skin discoloration (spots and freckles) may also occur.

Discuss all medicines you take with your medical professional and be aware:

- TRUVADA should not be used with Combivir®, Emtriva, Epivir, Epivir-HBV®, Epzicom™, Trizivir®, or Viread.
- Your medical professional may need to follow you more closely or adjust your therapy if you are taking Videx®, Videx EC®, Reyataz™ or Kaletra® with TRUVADA.

There is additional information about TRUVADA on the next page.

Patient Information

TRUVADA™ (trv-VAH-dah) Tablets

Generic name: emtricitabine and tenofovir disoproxil fumarate
(em tri TIT uh bean and te NOE to veer see PROX ih FYOU-mar-ee)

Read the Patient Information that comes with TRUVADA before you start taking it and each time you get a refill. There may be new information. This information does not take the place of talking to your healthcare provider about your medical condition or treatment. You should stop using a healthcare provider's care when taking TRUVADA. **Do not change or stop your medicine without first talking with your healthcare provider.** Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist if you have any questions about TRUVADA.

What is the most important information I should know about TRUVADA?

- Some people who have taken medicine like TRUVADA (nucleoside analogs) have developed a serious condition called lactic acidosis (build up of an acid in the blood). Lactic acidosis can be a medical emergency and may need to be treated in the hospital. Call your healthcare provider right away if you get the following signs or symptoms of lactic acidosis:

- You feel very weak or tired.
- You have unusual (not normal) muscle pain.
- You have trouble breathing.
- You have stomach pain with nausea and vomiting.
- You feel cold, especially in your arms and legs.
- You feel dizzy or lightheaded.
- You have a fast or irregular heartbeat.

- Some people who have taken medicines like TRUVADA have developed serious liver problems called hepatotoxicity, with liver enlargement (hepatomegaly) and fat in the liver (steatosis). Call your healthcare provider right away if you get the following signs or symptoms of liver problems:

- Your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice).
- Your urine turns dark.
- Your bowel movements (stools) turn light in color.
- You don't feel like eating food for several days or longer.
- You feel sick to your stomach (nausea).
- You have lower stomach ache (abdominal pain).

- You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or liver problems if you are female, very overweight (obese), or have been taking nucleoside analog medicines, like TRUVADA, for a long time.

- TRUVADA is not for the treatment of Hepatitis B Virus infection. Patients infected with both Hepatitis B Virus and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) who take TRUVADA need close medical follow-up for several months after stopping treatment with TRUVADA. Follow up includes medical exams and blood tests for checking for Hepatitis B Virus that could be getting worse. Patients with Hepatitis B Virus infection, who take TRUVADA, and then stop it, may get "flare-ups" of their hepatitis. A "flare-up" is when the disease suddenly returns in a worse way than before.

What is TRUVADA?

TRUVADA is a type of medicine called an HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) nucleoside analog reverse transcriptase inhibitor (NRTI). TRUVADA contains 2 medicines, EMTRIVA® (emtricitabine) and VIREAD® (tenofovir disoproxil fumarate), or tenofovir DF combined in one pill. TRUVADA is always used with other anti-HIV medicines to treat people with HIV infection. TRUVADA is for adults age 18 and older. TRUVADA has not been studied in children under age 18 or adults over age 65.

HIV infection destroys CD4 (T) cells, which are important to the immune system. The immune system helps fight infection. After a large number of T cells are destroyed, acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) develops.

TRUVADA helps block HIV reverse transcriptase, a chemical in your body (enzyme) that is needed for HIV to multiply. TRUVADA lowers the amount of HIV in the blood (viral load). TRUVADA may also help to increase the number of T cells (CD4 cells). Lowering the amount of HIV in the blood lowers the chance of death or infections that happen when your immune system is weak (opportunistic infections).

TRUVADA does not cure HIV infection or AIDS. The long-term effects of TRUVADA are not known at this time. People taking TRUVADA may still get opportunistic infections or other conditions that happen with HIV infection. Opportunistic infections are infections that develop because the immune system is weak. Some of these conditions are pneumonia, herpes virus infections, and Mycobacterium avium complex (MAC) infection. It is very important that you see your healthcare provider regularly while taking TRUVADA.

TRUVADA does not lower your chance of passing HIV to other people through sexual contact, sharing needles, or being exposed to your blood. For your health and the health of others, it is important to always practice safer sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom or other barrier to lower the chance of sexual contact with semen, vaginal secretions, or blood. Never use or share dirty needles.

Who should not take TRUVADA?

Do not take TRUVADA if you are allergic to TRUVADA or any of its ingredients. The active ingredients of TRUVADA are emtricitabine and tenofovir DF. See the end of this leaflet for a complete list of ingredients.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking TRUVADA?

Tell your healthcare provider if you:

- are pregnant or planning to become pregnant. We do not know if TRUVADA can harm your unborn child. You and your healthcare provider will need to decide if TRUVADA is right for you. If you are taking TRUVADA while you are pregnant, talk to your healthcare provider about how you can be on the TRUVADA Antiviral Pregnancy Registry.
- are breast-feeding. You should not breast feed if you are HIV-positive because of the chance of passing the HIV virus to your baby. Also, it is not known if TRUVADA can pass into your breast milk and if it can harm your baby. If you are a woman who has or will have a baby, talk with your healthcare provider for the best way to feed your baby.
- have kidney problems or are undergoing kidney dialysis treatment.
- have bone problems.
- have liver problems including HBV infection.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take, including prescription and non-prescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. Especially tell your healthcare provider if you take:

- COMBIVIR®, EMTRIVA®, EPVIR®, EPVIR-HBV®, EPZICOM™, TRIZIVIR®, or VIREAD. TRUVADA should not be used with these medicines.
- Drugs that contain didanosine (VIAVAX®, VIDEA® EC™). Tenofovir DF (a component of TRUVADA) may increase the amount of VIDEA in your blood. You may need to be followed more carefully if you are taking TRUVADA and VIDEA together.
- REYATAZ™ (atazanavir sulfate) or KALETRA® (zalcitabine/ritonavir). These medicines may increase the amount of tenofovir DF (a component of TRUVADA) in your blood, which could result in more side effects. You may need to be followed more carefully if you are taking TRUVADA and REYATAZ or KALETRA together.

Keep a complete list of all the medicines that you take. Make a new list when medicines are added or stopped. Give copies of this list to all of your healthcare providers and pharmacist every time you visit your healthcare provider or fill a prescription.

How should I take TRUVADA?

- Take TRUVADA exactly as your healthcare provider prescribed it. Follow the directions from your healthcare provider, exactly as written on the label.
- The usual dose of TRUVADA is 1 tablet once a day. TRUVADA is always used with other anti-HIV medicines. If you have kidney problems, you may need to take TRUVADA less often.
- TRUVADA may be taken with or without a meal. Food does not affect how TRUVADA works. Take TRUVADA at the same time each day.
- If you forget to take TRUVADA, take it as soon as you remember that day. Do not take more than 1 dose of TRUVADA in a day. Do not take 2 doses at the same time. Call your healthcare provider or pharmacist if you are not sure what to do. It is important that you do not miss any doses of TRUVADA or your anti-HIV medicines.
- When your TRUVADA supply starts to run low, get more from your healthcare provider or pharmacy. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to TRUVADA and become harder to treat.
- Do not change your dose or stop taking TRUVADA without first talking with your healthcare provider. Stay under a healthcare provider's care when taking TRUVADA.
- If you take too much TRUVADA, call your local poison control center or emergency room right away.

What should I avoid while taking TRUVADA?

- Do not breast-feed. See "What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking TRUVADA?"
- Avoid doing things that can spread HIV infection since TRUVADA doesn't stop you from passing the HIV infection to others.
 - Do not share needles or other injection equipment.
 - Do not share personal items that can have blood or body fluids on them, like toothbrushes or razor blades.
- Do not have any kind of sex without protection. Always practice safer sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom or other barrier to reduce the chance of sexual contact with semen, vaginal secretions, or blood.
- COMBIVIR®, EMTRIVA®, EPVIR®, EPVIR-HBV®, EPZICOM®, TRIZIVIR®, or VIREAD. TRUVADA should not be used with these medicines.

What are the possible side effects of TRUVADA?

TRUVADA may cause the following serious side effects (see "What is the most important information I should know about TRUVADA?").

- Lactic acidosis (buildup of an acid in the blood). Lactic acidosis can be a medical emergency and may need to be treated in the hospital. Call your doctor right away if you get signs of lactic acidosis. (See "What is the most important information I should know about TRUVADA?")
- Serious liver problems (hepatotoxicity), with liver enlargement (hepatomegaly) and fat in the liver (steatosis). Call your healthcare provider right away if you get any signs of liver problems. (See "What is the most important information I should know about TRUVADA?")
- "Flare-ups" of Hepatitis B Virus infection. In which the disease suddenly returns in a worse way than before, can occur if you stop taking TRUVADA. Your healthcare provider will monitor your condition for several months after stopping TRUVADA if you have both HIV and HBV infection. TRUVADA is not for the treatment of Hepatitis B Virus infection.

- Kidney problems. If you have had kidney problems in the past or take other medicines that can cause kidney problems, your healthcare provider should monitor your condition for several months after stopping TRUVADA if you have both HIV and HBV infection. TRUVADA is not for the treatment of Hepatitis B Virus infection.
- Changes in bone mineral density (thinning bones). It is not known whether long-term use of TRUVADA will cause damage to your bones. If you have had bone problems in the past, your healthcare provider may need to do tests to check your bone mineral density or may prescribe medicines to help your bone mineral density.

Other side effects with TRUVADA when used with other anti-HIV medicines include:

- Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients taking TRUVADA and other anti-HIV medicines. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the main part of your body (trunk). Loss of fat from the legs, arms and face may happen. The cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.

The most common side effects of EMTRIVA or VIREAD when used with other anti-HIV medicines are: dizziness, diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, headache, rash, and gas. Skin discoloration (small spots or freckles) may also happen with TRUVADA.

These are not all the side effects of TRUVADA. This list of side effects with TRUVADA is not complete at this time because TRUVADA is still being studied. If you have questions about side effects, ask your healthcare provider. Report any new or continuing symptoms to your healthcare provider right away. Your healthcare provider may be able to help you manage these side effects.

How do I store TRUVADA?

- Keep TRUVADA and all other medicines out of reach of children.
- Store at room temperature up to 25°C (77°F).
- Keep TRUVADA in its original container and keep the container tightly closed.
- Do not keep medicine that is out of date or that you no longer need. If you throw away medicines away make sure that children will not find them.

General information about TRUVADA:

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for conditions that are not mentioned in patient information leaflets. Do not use TRUVADA for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give TRUVADA to other people, even if they have the same symptoms you have. It may harm them.

This leaflet summarizes the most important information about TRUVADA. If you would like more information, talk with your healthcare provider. You can ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for information about TRUVADA that is written for health professionals. For more information, you may also call 1-800-GILEAD-5 or access the TRUVADA website at www.TRUVADA.com.

Do not use TRUVADA if seal over bottle opening is broken or missing.

What are the ingredients of TRUVADA?

Active ingredients: emtricitabine and tenofovir DF

Inactive ingredients: Croscarmellose sodium, lactose monohydrate, magnesium stearate, microcrystalline cellulose, and pregelatinized starch (gluten free). The tablets are coated with Opadry II Light Blue 730-10671-A. Contains FD&C Blue #2 aluminum lake, hypromellose, lactose monohydrate, titanium dioxide and inorganic fillers.

Rx Only

August 2004

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In January, California will equal Vermont in states' rights for same-sex couples. But some gays and lesbians are finding advantages to remaining legally single

BY GREG HERNANDEZ



PARTNERSHIPS

Not getting married today

On New Year's Day, 2005, one of the country's most sweeping domestic-partnership laws will go into effect for California's same-sex couples. Signed into law by former governor Gray Davis, the California Domestic Partner Rights and Responsibilities Act of 2003 is a definite step toward equality, giving registered couples many of the state rights of married people—including property rights, parenting rights, burial and inheritance rights, and extended unpaid leave to care for a partner.

Yet so far more than 300 of the 28,000-plus same-sex couples already registered as domestic partners have dissolved their partnerships because of the new law. Some are being stopped cold by the fact that California cannot provide any of the more than 1,100 federal protections that automatically come with civil marriage, including shared Social Security and veterans' benefits, coverage under federal employment benefits, and the ability to file joint federal tax returns. Some couples will actually hurt themselves financially if they sign up for the new program.

San Francisco residents Randy Cupp and Jeff Tarvin, together four years, are

Some couples opting out of California's new domestic-partnership program, which begins in January, include (from left) Walton and Williams, Reisbig and Golden, Cupp and Tarvin.

passing on the opportunity. "There was a part of me that wanted to have equal rights and have pride and show my love for Jeff, just to make it more official," says Cupp, 41. "But the more we looked into it, we realized it would help us a minor amount and would hurt us tremendously."

The couple, who are both HIV-positive, are worried they could lose state ▶

benefits such as Medi-Cal, a health care program, because of their combined income and assets, even though both are on disability. Without those benefits, Tarvin, 45, would not be able to afford his anti-HIV medications. "I just think people need to be really aware that it might look a lot better than it really is," Cupp says. In California the amount of state aid is partially determined by a married couple's income and assets.

Another San Francisco couple, Scott Williams and Scott Walton, are also avoiding becoming a registered couple. "You get pretty much all of the responsibilities of getting married but not all

passed," says Reisbig, who works as a wedding photographer. "For those of us who really want to be responsible, I want the options, I want the tools."

For couples who are currently registered as domestic partners in the state, the approximately 20 legal rights and responsibilities they have under state law will be automatically expanded when the new law takes effect. Those who do not want the new law to apply to them must opt out before the end of the year and terminate their partnership with the office of the secretary of state.

Democratic assemblyman Mark Leno of San Francisco—one of the authors of

solve the [domestic] partnership." After January 1, Gelfand says, people are going to most likely need family attorneys to help dissolve their partnerships and pay court fees.

But Zoran K. Basich, a Los Angeles attorney who founded Nursing Home Solutions, says that while going through legal proceedings similar to a divorce might be financially draining for some, it also offers a sobering dose of reality for same-sex couples. "The upside is clear: We're married," says Basich, whose group, also based in Los Angeles, deals with issues surrounding long-term illness. "But I think



For domestic partners under California's new law, "things in the past that were a screaming match away and a walk off, you won't have that option anymore," says Lambda Legal's Jon Davidson.

the rights," says Williams, a 36-year-old Web site editor. "There are federal rights that are associated with marriage that a domestic partnership isn't going to cover. Obviously, it's unequal." Instead, Williams and Walton, 45, drew up a legal package consisting of wills and powers of attorney, including medical powers.

Julia Weiner, a Chino resident who has been with her partner, Germaine Leger, for nearly three years, wonders whether the new law will have sufficient teeth in the courts, especially in regard to what the federal government will recognize. "This is just a piece of the cake; it doesn't give us the entire slice," says Weiner, a real estate investor.

While Weiner and Leger weigh the decision to register, San Francisco residents Jeanine K. Reisbig and Gale Golden were forced to dissolve their existing domestic partnership. Together 24 years, they want to preserve Golden's Supplemental Security Income benefits, which they fear losing if they're acknowledged as a couple. "I'm a little

the legislation, Assembly Bill 205—recognizes that there are concerns for some couples, but he notes there is also considerable enthusiasm for the new law. "Not uncommonly, we don't hear as much from those who are pleased as we do from those who are concerned," he says. "The problem is not with AB205; the problem is with the inherent discrimination and inequity in denying loving same-sex couples marriage licenses."

Yet Jane Gelfand, an attorney and benefits counseling program director at Positive Resource Center—a nonprofit organization in San Francisco that assists those affected by HIV and AIDS—has spent much of the year exhaustively researching the impact the law will have on means-tested state benefits. She is alarmed at the lack of answers. "Medi-Cal doesn't quite know yet how they are going to interpret it," Gelfand says. "If people maintain their domestic partnership, they may have a bad surprise when Medi-Cal does figure out that it may affect their benefits. Then they might not have the means to dis-

solve the honeymoon phase of this idea is going to quickly come to a halt, because we are just not accustomed to all the responsibilities that come along with relationships."

Under the existing law, people who chose to no longer be together would simply send notification to the secretary of state, and that was the end of it. The new law is also expected to make things like prenuptial agreements more common. "They take on a responsibility for support, joint ownership of property, and they take on joint liability for death, because the law presumes they are going to be operating as a combined economic unit with joint bank accounts and paying bills together," says Jon W. Davidson, senior counsel for Lambda Legal in Los Angeles, who helped draft the new law. "Things in the past that were a screaming match away and a walk off, you won't have that option anymore." ■

Hernandez is a Los Angeles-based journalist.

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The Advocate

Holiday gift guide

It's the holidays, which means you've got too many gifts to buy for too many special people in your life. But we've got ideas for you—yes, we do—ranging from the geeky to the generous.

Doing unto others

Even a queer ol' Scrooge who considers the adage "It's better to give than to receive" loathsome must admit that a gift benefiting a pro-gay cause is a fabulous thing. A few items from last year (or twists thereupon) are being offered again: Human Rights Campaign's "Bearie" ornament from artist Christopher Radko, PFLAG's fleecy pullover and fine

California wines, AmFAR's holiday cards, and Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS's snow globe and all-star *Carols for a Cure* compilation CD.

This year offers a cornucopia of nifty new items as well, from funky and hip to family-friendly, to benefit a wide range of causes and organizations.

Red Ribbon Watch, Suede Jacket, Snowy Card Set

Beneficiary: Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS

This elegant brushed stainless steel Cross watch **1**, decorated with a tasteful antiqued red ribbon, comes in men's and ladies' styles. The luxurious brown suede jacket **2**, features buttons engraved with red ribbons and the Broadway Cares logo embroidered into the lining. And Stefan Kalinka's watercolor painted cards **3**, invite you to send holiday greetings in high style. Supporter Nathan Lane says BC/EFA does "the most important work in the theater community." **Watch, \$210; Jacket, \$175; Cards, \$30/box of 12**



"Same Love, Same Rights" lapel pin

Beneficiary: Rainbow Wedding Network

RWN's beautiful double-heart pin, displaying rainbow colors and the phrase "Same Love, Same Rights," proudly proclaims one's support for marriage equality—a bargain at just five bucks. Proceeds will be divided among regional grassroots organizations fighting for gay marriage rights at state and national levels. **\$5**



2005 Peace calendar

Beneficiary: Living Proof

An acclaimed stage production by and about a 15-member troupe of urban Baltimore GLBT youth, *Living Proof* is being adapted for a book and documentary film. The 2005 edition of Syracuse Cultural Workers' Peace calendar will benefit these works-in-progress. "The project is all about putting out a stronger presence for urban gay youth," says producer Erin Davies. "*Living Proof* is really getting the word out."

\$12.95



APLA Holiday Cards

Beneficiary: AIDS Project Los Angeles

Sean Hayes is such a card...designer. So are Hilary Swank and Selma Blair, whose whimsical art decorates APLA's celeb holiday cards. Hayes's depicts gift boxes, Swank whipped up a "Peace Fairy," and Blair's floating girl reaches to touch a star. **\$14.95 per dozen**



"New Wave '80s" record clocks

Beneficiary: Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network

Share your love of the '80s and GLSEN with these one-of-a-kind timekeepers. Designed by Simon Cantion, LoungeLife's record clocks incorporate vintage '80s albums and covers—from the likes of Adam Ant, Blondie, Erasure, and Duran Duran—plus decade-appropriate fabrics, patterns, fake fur, and squiggly new-wave clock hands. \$50

Holiday card by Shag, Radko ornament

Beneficiary: PAWS/LA

For cool cats—and dogs—L.A. retro lounge artist Shag (a.k.a. Josh Ag'le) designed these very chic holiday cards.

PAWS/LA provides care to the beloved companion animals of people with life-threatening and debilitating illnesses, so help keep tails wagging with your purchase of holiday cards and Christopher Radko's adorable "Jingle PAWS" ornament.

Cards, \$25 per 10; Ornament, \$40
—Lawrence Ferber



"Love Is Everywhere" designer shirts, Love Rocks CD

Beneficiary: Human Rights Campaign

Love is never out of fashion, especially when designers like Perry Ellis, Donna Karan, Michael Kors, and Calvin Klein are involved. Give one of HRC's "Love Is Everywhere" limited-edition designer shirts to your main squeeze, and throw in a copy of the *Love Rocks* CD while you're at it. The 32 contributing artists include Christina Aguilera, Pink, Melissa Etheridge, Ari Gold, the Dixie Chicks, B-52's, Mandy Moore, Dolly Parton, Cyndi Lauper, and Yoko Ono, who offers a Sade-esque mix of her queer anthem "Every Man Has a Man Who Loves Him."

Shirts, \$21.95–\$38; CD, \$19.98





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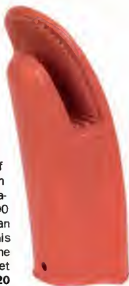


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—V.L.

Ms. Pac-Man's gay kids

The growing number of out video gamers has led to more gay game characters
By Vincent Lopez



Pipe-leaping plumbers? Sure. Big-breasted archaeologists? Whatever. But the first time I saw

Fergus and Patrick kiss, I couldn't believe my eyes. I couldn't believe it because they were characters in the virtual suburbia of *The Sims*, and back in 2000 kissing never really happened in video games, let alone a same-sex lip-lock. In a universe of power-ups and unlimited continues, I never thought something like sexuality would be the next hot feature.

Gay culture is finally getting a face in one of the biggest forms of entertainment—video games. *The Sims 2* has become this season's first big blockbuster by letting people simulate real life, both gay and straight. Technically, it's even more real than life, since gay marriage is actually legal in the game. The fantasy game *The Temple of Elemental Evil* lets the player romance a male character, and *Fable*, a hack-and-slash adventure where you can choose the morality of your hero, also allows you to marry both men and women. It even keeps track of your sexuality depending on your in-game behavior. (I was bisexual, apparently.)

Still, there's a long way to go. "[Games] have not yet found a way to tackle deep or complex subjects in a sensitive or emotionally mature manner," says Dene Carter, lead designer on *Fable*. It's not that games have necessarily been homophobic—it's just hard to really promote any sexuality when most of your heroes have been hedgehogs, electric mice, and bandicoots. Now that the industry is starting to mature, so is the subject matter—and,

fortunately, in a gay-friendly atmosphere.

Online gaming—like the rest of the Internet—has also become a safe haven for people to express themselves and their sexuality. *City of Heroes*, a new online role-playing game that takes place in a world of superheroes, recently celebrated a gay day where queer-identified characters got together and mingled in the virtual world.

"They can create a persona that extends their personality along with sexuality and style into a video game," says Vince Gajudo, a hardcore gamer who admits that he's "bought a game or two because they've had some hot guys in it." The appeal of video games has always been escapism, so it fits perfectly that people can do things in games that they may not be able to do in the real world.

Today's games are still a baby step in an industry that's barely reached its teenage years, but still, it's a nice sign of what's to come. "For now, games are merely another form of entertainment," adds Carter, "and if we can make the odd subversive comment, then all the better." ■

Lopez is a writer and producer for G4techTV.





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—Richard Andreoli

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William's room



On either side of the door to William's room, there are framed photographs of a young Brad Pitt (at his first Oscars, looking very Clark Gable) and Meg Tilly (beneath a sea of flowers). Is there any question this child is growing up in a gay household? To backtrack for the nonclairvoyant reader: Our

foster child, William Mason Barclay, arrived in our home on July 22, seven days after his birth. In October we celebrated his 3-month birthday—which I understand isn't normally commemorated, but as in any new relationship, each possible milestone is marked and photographed.

*It's a little bit funny
This feeling inside...*

Once you step into William's room, after you've recovered from the intense post-*Queer Eye* decor, you're drawn to the deep red drapes. A nontraditional choice (by Tommy Hilffiger), but we wear our nontraditional family status on our sleeve as a red badge of courage. The alphabet carpet and the reclining sofa, brought to us by our friends at Ikea, are more expected. The dark oak glider chair and matching crib seem almost too mature for a baby—but we expect this one will grow up fast. (At least we hope so, 'cuz we ain't gettin' any younger!)

*I'm not one of those who can
Easily hide...*

Why am I telling you all this? What does the stuff in William's room have to do with anything? OK, I'll admit—it's a stalling tactic, a delay. I'm setting the scene to avoid the emotional gushing that I worry may be just too much. So it's easier to talk about his Gymini (a great little mat with hanging toys) or the diaper pail that seals in odors flawlessly. Or the mobile over his cradle that

allows him to choose Beethoven, Mozart, or Bach to watch weird animals swirl around to.

*I hope you don't mind
I hope you don't mind
That I put down in words...*

It may be a year—it may be more—before the gift of William Mason Barclay legally becomes ours. Until then, we had hoped to re-



strain ourselves, to hold a part of our hearts in a lockbox of sorts, as Al Gore might have said once upon a time—before he was elected president and then screwed. It's tough to fall in love when the sword of Damocles hovers over—but we're

powerless not to do exactly that.

This is the process we signed up for. In Los Angeles County, where thousands of children of color in particular are available to be cared for, we asked to be on the county's "gift list." Our gift arrived healthy and happy—although 4½ pounds when we brought him home, he's now back up to normal fighting weight. He laughs frequently, spits up rarely, and is really cranky only when bedtime nears. I guess he doesn't want to miss a minute of this thing called life, and we concur.

*How wonderful life is
When you're in the world...*

William got me up at 3:14 this morning. I didn't mind. I lifted all 12 pounds of him and settled him down with my left hand while pouring formula into his bottle with my right. He doesn't fuss much when he's in your arms, and if he does, a little bit of vibration or a quick change of scene usually distracts him enough to let you get what you need to do done.

He guzzles down four ounces without much of a pause. When he's done he lets you know by pushing the bottle forcefully away. Before I can even lift him to my shoulder for a burp, he offers a sour-milky-scented belch and smiles, his eyes still half shut. Just like mine are.

*I hope you don't mind
I hope you don't mind
That I put down in words
How wonderful life is
When you're in the world.*

Usually my partner, Christopher, does this feeding, as I have to be at work in just a few hours, but the truth is, I don't mind at all. I'm the one who's actually being fed. I'm the one who is learning the real truth about unconditional love, day by day, in William's room. ■

**It may be a year before the gift of our son legally becomes ours.
Until then, we had hoped to hold a part of our hearts in a lockbox of sorts.**

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A *Kinsey* 3-some: Liam Neeson (center) as Kinsey; Laura Linney as his wife; Peter Sarsgaard as Clyde Martin, the man with whom both Kinseys had an affair

film

Bill & Al's excellent adventure

Out Oscar winner Bill Condon (*Gods and Monsters*) talks about taking on Alfred Kinsey, bisexual icon of the sexual revolution, in a new film **By Bruce C. Steele**



Meet Adam Raphael's

FRIENDS & BROTHERS

"Adam Raphael's images, like the men who populate his new book, *FRIENDS & BROTHERS*, are immediately likeable and sexy as hell."

Reed Massengill, photographer, author, critic

These days, gay people most often invoke mid-century sex researcher Alfred Kinsey as source for the estimate that 10% of adults are gay (an oversimplification of one of his many findings) and for the Kinsey scale, grading sexual behavior from 0 (exclusively heterosexual) to 6 (totally gay). Few know much about the Indiana U. professor himself: how he clashed with his evangelical father, how his fascination with gall wasps evolved into a revolutionary research project on human sexuality, and how his 35-year marriage to a former student survived his (only recently revealed) extramarital homosexual liaisons.

The acclaimed new film *Kinsey*, from out writer-director Bill Condon, brings Kinsey the man vividly to life. Starring Liam Neeson and Laura Linney—with a showstopping cameo by Lynn Redgrave, as a lesbian—the movie is like nothing you'll ever see on the Biography Channel: deeply emotional, sexually frank, and as current as November's election results.

At *Kinsey's* core, Condon says, is a "tremendous fight" between people who want to talk about sex, particularly to protect the young from sexually transmitted diseases, and their powerful enemies "who think that the only answer is abstinence." It's a battle only too familiar to citizens of Bush America, and it first coalesced around Kinsey's comprehensive 1948 study of American men's sexuality—straight and gay. As Condon puts it, a lot of gay men must have put down Kinsey's book *Sexual Behavior in the Human Male* and said, "God, there are a lot of us—what are we going to do about it?"

"The two great social earthquakes of the last 50 years have been the women's movement and the gay movement," says the happily partnered Condon, who won a screenplay Oscar for *Gods and Monsters* and a nomination for *Chicago*. "Kinsey is in some way responsible for both."

The Advocate: Tell me a little about how you chose to integrate Kinsey's bisexuality into your screenplay.

Condon: Well, it was very important for me as a gay filmmaker that *Kinsey* not be a movie that could be typed exclusively as a gay film. At the same ►

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time, he is truly one of the fathers of the gay movement. There is no question about that. But because he didn't believe in labels and because he spoke to everybody, I didn't want it to dominate. [Kinsey] experienced gay sex for the first time in his 40s. It's not known for sure exactly when; it could be during his trips to Chicago when he was introduced to this homosexual subculture.

As you depict in the movie, he was in Chicago with a colleague, collecting sexual histories from gay men.

That's right. He was overwhelmed by how much activity there was. He also went to tea rooms and parks, and there's some sense that those were his first [gay] sexual encounters. But his first full-on homosexual love affair was with Clyde Martin [the colleague played in the film by Peter Sarsgaard].

Was it known at the time that Kinsey had had homosexual experiences?

Not at all. He carefully cultivated this image of the conservative family man. He was, at the same time, surprisingly reckless. He got involved with one of the more well-known gay couples of the period, Glenway Wescott and Monroe Wheeler. Wescott was a famous gossip, so New York gay circles all knew what Kinsey was up to. The irony is, Kinsey was trying to open up the discussion and tell the truth about what everyone was doing but was very careful not to tell the truth about himself.

[It's been known] only in the past 10 years. [His colleague] Paul Gebhard—who I've met and is a great, fascinating guy [played in the film by Timothy Hutton]—decided it was something important to talk about. Once he opened up, everybody else followed. Kinsey's children are in their 80s now and didn't know anything about it. Imagine finding this out about your parents when you're already in your 70s!

Will Kinsey's children see the movie?

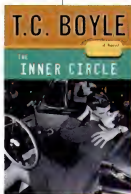
The daughters have and liked it, so I was pleased with that.

Have you always been fascinated by Kinsey?

No, I think my main reference point [until recently] was "Too Darn Hot" by Cole Porter! That article in *The New Yorker* about eight years ago and then a lot of material in 1999 got me thinking. *This could make an interesting movie.*

What was it that made you think this would make a great movie?

One of the things I learned from *Gods and Monsters* is how careful you have to be in choosing the subject of a true-life picture. The thing that made [openly gay *Frankenstein* director] James Whale a suitable subject was that deep connection between his personal life and the work for which he's famous. It turned out that the same was true of Kinsey: The drive to investigate what people are actually doing sexually came from a deeply personal need. And when he discovered things, he would apply it to his personal life, so the film could give equal weight to his life and the work. Also, obviously, there was a certain personal connection I felt, having grown up in an Irish Catholic household with a father who was very kind but also very skittish about any mention of sex.



book review

Milk 'n' Kinsey

The Inner Circle ■ T.C. Boyle ■ Viking ■ \$25.95

If Eve knew the seed structure and chemical composition of the apple, would she still get a thrill out of biting it? T.C. Boyle's beautifully realized 10th novel, *The Inner Circle*, is poised on the irresistible tension between innocence and knowledge. His narrator, John Milk, is a typical, sexually frustrated Indiana University student who feigns an engagement in order to enroll in professor Alfred Kinsey's famous 1939 seminar on marriage—complete with a slide show of aroused genitals that leaves everyone in the room on the verge of a dead faint. Later Milk consents to an interview with Kinsey and becomes his assistant at the Institute for Sex Research.

As Kinsey's disciple, Milk is not only trusted with the profiles of thousands of research subjects but is encouraged to explore his still-unfolding sexuality—with Kinsey's wife, with Kinsey himself, with an exciting cast of extras. But is the sexual behavior of the "human animal" purely a matter for disinterested observation? Are the old boundaries of love and fidelity passé?

Boyle's portrait of Kinsey as a relentless, half-mad Ahab of sex research is brilliant, but it is the voice of John Milk that will stay with readers. His unworldliness—despite all he has seen and heard—is the perfect contrast to the high-minded hanky-panky of the inner circle. —Regina Marler

to have sex with men instead of women" is too reductive of the scope of what sexuality represents.

Are we wrong today, then, in thinking of the Kinsey Scale as a 0-to-6 scale of sexual orientation?

It was all about activity, behavior. He didn't think there was [such] an essential thing as a homosexual or a heterosexual. It's one of those ideas that people have strong feelings about, both pro and con. An awful lot of people still don't believe in the idea of bisexuality. They think of it as just a kind of incipient homosexuality or some kind of an escape.

Yet Kinsey himself seems to disprove that, since he had gay experiences in addition to a solid, sexual marriage for 35 years, until his death. And his wife, Mac, had at least one significant sexual affair as well, with Clyde Martin, who was also her husband's lover.

As opposed to most movies, [in *Kinsey*] the male becomes the sexual object. If you notice, Peter [Sarsgaard] is the one who's objectified—he's the one who's

naked with both [Kinsey and Mac]. I thought that was being truthful about this person who was a true bisexual, a genuine bisexual.

Have the anti-Kinsey forces picked up the "Kinsey was bisexual" thing as a way to try to discredit him?

Oh, it's so far down the list for them.

You mean, as long as they can accuse him of enabling pedophilia, they don't need to talk about his bisexuality?

Exactly. They call him sick because he talked to a few pedophiles—basically just the one depicted in the movie, who was at the end of his life and was describing experiences he'd had [with young children] at an earlier age. But still, Kinsey didn't have that man arrested and therefore is accused of being complicit in all those acts. Kinsey couldn't have been clearer about his disapproval of anything but consensual sex. But it doesn't matter—it's just out-and-out distortions.

It seems to me that what the anti-Kinsey forces really want has less to do

with Kinsey than it has to do with putting the genie back in the bottle—turning back 60 years of progress in talking about sexual behavior.

That's right. It's this strange notion that if you can somehow assassinate his character and tar him with all these charges, that therefore all the science will become worthless and that therefore people's behavior will change. It's crazy. What I love is, they refer to me as a homosexual activist. I'm embarrassed by the fact that I've never really been a homosexual activist—I've been too busy writing movies. And I was sort of curious as to why they would describe me as that, and I realize it's because I'm openly gay, and that for them is already kind of being a radical. I'm proud to wear those stripes. I just haven't done enough to earn them. ■



Could Kinsey ever air on TV? What's the Kinsey Institute up to today? And what's Lypsinka got to do with it? Find exclusive outtakes from this interview with Bill Condon only at Advocate.com.

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"I'm still jet-lagged," warns director Pedro Almodóvar before giving an interview in his favorite Los Angeles hotel. But a sleep-deprived Almodóvar still makes for a more rousing interview than most wide-awake Hollywood types. Using a pen to draw diagrams as he speaks in his native Spanish, as though to engage his left brain and right brain simultaneously, he overflows with anecdotes about his provocative new film *Bad Education* (*La Mala Educación*) and how it both parallels and differs from his own life.

Like most Almodóvar films, *Education* doesn't make for easy plot synopsis. International "it" boy Gael García Bernal plays actor Ángel Andrade, who was known as Ignacio when he went to Catholic boarding school with pal Enrique (Fele Martínez) in the Spain of the early '80s. The film begins in the early '80s, when Ángel asks Enrique, now an openly gay director, to film a story about their childhood romance—and about how school priest Father Manolo (Daniel Giménez Cacho) came between them because of his own designs on young Ignacio. In Ángel's version of the story, Ignacio grows up to become exotic drag queen Zahara. (And you haven't lived until you've seen Bernal lip-synch "Quizas, Quizas, Quizas" in a Jean Paul Gaultier gown.) Enrique turns the story into a movie starring Ángel—but then the much older Father Manolo, now known as Señor Berenguer (Luís Homar), turns up to tell Enrique what Paul Harvey always called "the rest of the story."

The Advocate: I've read where you've said the film isn't autobiographical—

Almodóvar: But it's something of a stigma to say that it isn't. I'm not telling my story directly, but it's a story from my memories. I was never a boy abused by priests, and as a director, an actor never put me in a situation as dangerous as the one that Gael puts Fele in. But I was badly educated, shall we say, in a Catholic school in the mid '60s; I was a soloist in the choir [like Ignacio]; and that's where my fascination with the liturgy and the ceremony of the Catholic Mass began.

film

Holy terror

Pedro Almodóvar talks about Catholicism, the thrill of the "prohibited," and the *Bad Education* of an entire generation

By Alonso Duralde



Bernal (far left) and Homar in Almodóvar's *Bad Education*

In telling this story now, precisely, does it have anything to do with the child molestation scandals that have rocked the Roman Catholic Church over the last few years?

More than anything else, I made this movie to denounce the kind of education I—and generations of Spaniards—received. Because besides just the abuse, which was atrocious, I wanted to show an education that's based on punishment and guilt, which is completely aberrant. What's horrible is that these scandals at parochial schools have been going on for at least 50 years, and they kept on going through the '70s, the '80s, the '90s, and today. In Spain it's reported less frequently than in the U.S. But I think it happens there even more often. It was definitely going on at my school. Kids told each other everything. And

I also discovered during that period, on sort of a parallel track, the fear of that sort of punishment-based education. And also, I found my real education, which was the cinema. Three doors down from the school on the same street was the movie theater. And on the weekends I would go there for double features, and that's where I got my real education.

School was also where I discovered sensuality, in the way that many boys do, with other boys. But it wasn't traumatic—it was reciprocal, which is how these things ought to go.



there's a particular kind of shame that's similar to what battered wives must feel, that to denounce it brings a kind of stigma and a kind of shame. The people I knew never reported it.

Do you think that the spectacle of the Catholic Mass had much effect on your own vision as an artist?

I think at that moment you don't really distinguish the things that are going on around you; you just absorb them. And I remember that I really enjoyed the liturgy of the Catholic Church. But with cinema, I felt more *penetrated*, if you will. I reacted to movies in a much more active way. Of course, the movies that I loved back then were all prohibited by the church. And even then I felt that because I loved these movies, I was part of a world that was prohibited and perverse. I didn't know what it was, exactly, but it helped me define who I was. I thought, *Well, if it's prohibited for me to see Splendor in the Grass, then everything I feel must be prohibited.*

I think this is the first time you've presented the movida Madrileña [Spain's post-Franco burst of freedom in the 1980s] on film as a historical period rather than something that was happening when you made the movie. Was that strange for you?

It produced a very odd sensation in me. Because we had the wardrobe people and the set decorators looking at magazines and books from the early '80s and the late '70s. And in the middle of them, there I was. I was part of the research. And I think it was the first time that I realized that the '80s happened quite a while ago. I've always thought of them as being something very recent. But from one year to the next, they've become part of the past—the makeup, the hair, the music, what we did.

Let's talk about Gael. You ask a lot of him in this role—drag, love scenes with men—and he's presented as a sex object and a tease for other men. Did he deliver it without problems?

It was hard for him. There was a moment where it seemed like he couldn't deal with all of it, and I asked him to

trust me, and I would steer him, and between the two of us we would make it happen. It's difficult for a man who's never worn high heels—it takes months to get that walk down.

There are heterosexual actors—I was reminded of Antonio [Banderas] in *Law of Desire*—who, when they find themselves in a role so far from who they are, they're able to launch themselves into it with no hesitation at all because they have no doubt. They're not all that way. Gael is very young, so those physical moments he has with other men in the film definitely affected him. He wouldn't say anything; he would put himself on top, under, next to, naked, in his underwear, but I could tell that he wanted it to be over with as soon as possible. I would ask him if it was difficult, and he would say, "Oh, no, no, no, don't worry," but I think the love scenes were hard work for him.

I did a lot of auditions, and the one who gave me the best reading was Gael. Particularly physically. There were some prettier boys, but I needed someone who could be a transvestite but who could also be a man handsome enough to have everyone falling into his arms.

Transvestites and the transgendered are a recurring motif in your work. Why?

I've known a lot of them very well—some of them have been a big part of my life, and in a film they always make the drama more dynamic. They force the rest of the characters who come in contact with them to have some kind of reaction. In movies there's always a death or some kind of occurrence that forces the characters to respond and moves the story along. In the center of the story, a transvestite or transgendered person requires everyone else to respond to her. And dramatically, that's always interesting. I don't do it to be sensationalist; in my stories, I think having them gives it a greater weight.

Last time we spoke there was someone waiting for you in Madrid. Is there still?

Well, yes. I hope so. The whole world can change in a day. But I hope so. ■



For more exclusive excerpts from this interview with Pedro Almodóvar, go to www.advocate.com



Two sexy new DVDs remind us that in the world of Canadian provocateur Bruce LaBruce, the revolution will not be PG-13 **By Michael Wilde**

The Raspberry Reich ■ Written and directed by Bruce LaBruce ■ Starring Susanne Sachsse, Daniel Bätischer, Andreas Rupprecht ■ Strand Releasing Home Video

Sugar ■ Written by Todd Klink and John Palmer, based on stories by Bruce LaBruce ■ Directed by John Palmer ■ Starring Brendan Fehr, Andre Noble ■ ThinkFilm/TLA Video

In an era where gay movies are being sanitized for mass consumption, punk auteur Bruce LaBruce reminds us of the bite queer films can have. LaBruce has always brought us tales that push boundaries, from *Hustler White's* male amputee hookers plying their trade to *The Raspberry Reich's* revolutionaries screaming, "Heterosexuality is the opiate of the masses."

In *Reich*, LaBruce's latest offering, plans run afoul for a group of wannabe terrorists when they find that their kidnapping victim has been disowned by his wealthy father for his homosexuality. In the name of personal revolution, the members of the Raspberry Reich have sex with each other and their captive to liberate themselves from "the shackles



of heterosexual monogamy." But they're only doing it, of course, to prove their dedication to the cause.

While graphic sex is liberally spread throughout the film, dismissing *Raspberry Reich* as mere porn is an oversimplification. The pornographic images don't linger long enough to be more than titillating. Instead, the sexual images are overlaid with revolutionary texts and catchphrases, selling them like a product in a beer commercial or music video. LaBruce isn't marketing revolution so much as commenting on the capitalist assimilation of radicalism. (The modern

left's tendency to romanticize radicalism is one of LaBruce's targets as well.) *Reich* is ultimately humorous and fun, more so if you have been keeping up on your radical leftist reading.

LaBruce's writing was the inspiration for veteran Canadian director John Palmer's *Sugar*, loosely based on short stories written by LaBruce back during his Super 8 days when he was the cocreator of the seminal queer punk zine *JD's*. The stories have been taken out of their original punk-skinhead context and moved into the less innocent age of crack culture, based on coscreenwriter Todd Klink's own experiences as an escort.

Suburban kid Cliff (Andre Noble) heads downtown on his 18th birthday—at his little sister's urging—in search of sex. He meets a beautiful street hustler named Butch, played by Brendan Fehr of TV's *Roswell*. The toothache-sweet Cliff instantly develops an unrequited crush on the roguish Butch and through him is introduced to the world of drugs, prostitution, and after-hours clubs.

Both Fehr and Noble do excellent work. (Soon after the film's release, the 25-year-old Noble died tragically of accidental poisoning on a camping trip.) The supporting cast, including indie darling Sarah Polley, provides plenty of humor with their eccentric performances. As tasty as *Sugar* is, it tortures us exquisitely with the pains of first love and of losing someone to addiction. Like Cliff, we are left with a sense of longing like the lingering of a first kiss. ■

Wilde has also written for *Tablet* and *Q* San Francisco.



Kima (Sonja Sohn), McNulty (Dominic West); inset: Omar (Michael K. Williams)

t v r e v i e w

Get Wired

Watch season 1 on DVD and you may find yourself fatally addicted to HBO's *The Wire*
By Anne Stockwell

Until a couple of weeks ago I didn't watch HBO's *The Wire* and didn't see why I should. It was way too complicated. Work that hard to fathom a cop show? Puh-le-e-eze. That was before my girlfriend and I got hold of *The Wire: The Complete Season One* (HBO Video, \$99.98), just out on DVD. A couple of do-overs with the remote control and we had the basics down. After that, we sucked up all 13 episodes in one glorious binge. Now we're hooked to the bone.

In its third season on HBO (Sunday nights at 9 Eastern and Pacific) *The Wire* keeps spinning ever-deeper stories of a hard-scramble Baltimore in which drug dealers and detectives get equal time; they're perfectly matched adversaries in the endless struggle they all call "the game." Among them, on both sides of the action, are arguably the most likable gay African-American characters in memory.

First up is Det. Shakima "Kima" Greggs, played beyond perfection by Sonja Sohn. Kima is unflappable, soft-spoken, watchful underneath her ever-present baseball cap. Though others

may advance faster on the promotion ladder—an all-too-convincing touch of realism—Greggs is such a natural leader that she always ends up in charge. Her relationships with her "guy's guy" fellow detectives feel totally right; she doesn't give confidences or ask favors.

But Omar does get riled. Check out the episode where during a drug raid in the projects one of the young hoppers dares to strike a policeman. Kima comes running at him so hard her legs are a blur, falls on him, and just *whales* his head as she cuffs him. It's not just action, it's the work of a ferocious actor. Sohn, who's not gay, utterly commits to the lesbian warrior she plays. Kima's great on the page—but it's Sohn who brings the fire.

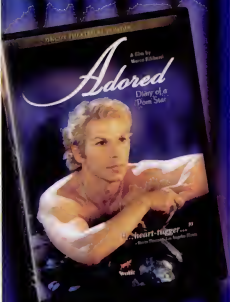
Michael K. Williams is also extraordinary as Omar, a legendary bandit who likes to rob Baltimore's drug dealers. (Talk about your high-stress occupations.) With a knife scar rakishly bisecting his face and a devastating way with a saved-off shotgun, Omar is the polar opposite of a stereotypical gay man—ruthless with his enemies, tender with his boyfriends. The character is so fresh, you watch with your mouth open.

There's much more to love about this series—the ensemble of superb African-American actors digging into roles worthy of their mettle for a change; the sly, sexy hunkitude of Dominic West, the English actor who sinks without a trace into the lead role of Det. Jimmy McNulty.

But for all the superlatives, there's no explaining *The Wire*. As one of the characters says about a tasty chicken dinner, you just better get up in it. ■

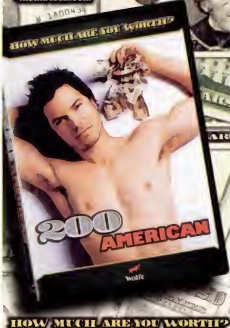
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t h e a t e r

Seasons of love

Celebrated playwright Paula Vogel talks about her own celebrations—a New York theater season devoted to her work, and a wedding with her longtime partner **By Gerard Raymond**

It may be the worst of times, but it's also the best of times for Paula Vogel. In September the Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright married professor Anne Fausto-Sterling, her lover of 16 years. And New York's Signature Theatre Company is in the midst of a full season devoted to Vogel's work. *The Oldest Profession* ended its run at the Signature in October; *Hot 'n' Throbbing*, a disturbing look at domestic violence, concludes the season next spring. Beginning in November the festival presents her landmark AIDS play, *The Baltimore Waltz*. Vogel spoke to *The Advocate* about her milestone year.

So you got married in your new hometown in Massachusetts.

We had a really nice party in Truro, in Cape Cod, which is one of my favorite spots on earth. We each had a glass of champagne, and I'm still floating. I'm very glad I didn't do it when I was, say, 20 or 22. My partner and I are both middle-aged. When we say till death do we part, we are very much thinking



Paula Vogel

about that. We are thinking of the years ahead that are left to us of writing and of watching the younger generation. It's fantastic—both looking back and looking forward in life.

Did you decide to marry because it's legal in Massachusetts?

We've been together for 16 years, and we are already accepted within our community and embraced within our family. What is surprising is the emotion of it being legal—to realize that marriage is not just a personal commitment. It's a commitment from a larger community to embrace a couple. I must tell you that I would rather that the Massachusetts supreme court had waited another year, because this marriage issue will bring out more Republicans than would have otherwise gone to the polls.

Do you see your marriage as a political act?

I just don't think there's a difference between the political and personal. I think it makes a political difference to the chil-

dren in the room to see these older women who are aunts getting married.

Is there a difference between your marriage and a traditional heterosexual marriage?

We are both seriously committed to a radical redefinition of marriage. Neither of us will be emulating heterosexual marriage, a religious marriage. But there comes a point when you really want to have the powers of attorney recognized. I will, in some ways, miss my partner's mother calling herself my mother-in-love or my mother-out-law.

Let's talk about the plays in your Signature season. You wrote *The Baltimore Waltz* in memory of your brother Carl, who died of AIDS in 1988.

There was a breakthrough moment for me when I realized that you can use theater to talk to the dead. The moments of the purest grief and emotional intensity are when we feel pure joy, accompanied with a high degree of humor. I had an emotional urgency to write, and that has remained in every play since then. I also wrote the play a short four months after I fell in love with my partner, who I met a year after my brother's death. In every play I write there is a valentine to Carl and there's a valentine to Anne.

You've described *Hot 'n' Throbbing* as your most difficult play.

To a large extent I am asking us to spend 90 minutes looking at what is happening in front of our eyes across America. No one is paying attention to domestic violence at a time when the very techniques we used in Abu Ghraib are being used in our living rooms. Maybe the thing that makes the play dangerous is that it is funny and sexy as well.

What do you wish for most in your life right now?

There is only one thing. It's not money or prizes—it's simply more time with Anne. She is a very remarkable person, and I have been happy every day of my life living with her. ■

Raymond writes on the arts and lives in New York City.

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Parker at loose ends

Craig Lucas's *Reckless* doesn't ignite, despite the presence of Mary-Louise Parker

By Don Shewey

Reckless ■ Written by Craig Lucas
■ Directed by Mark Brokaw
■ Starring Mary-Louise Parker
■ Biltmore Theatre, New York City,
through December 12

Do we ever really know another person? That's the question that runs through Craig Lucas's *Reckless*, and Rachel Fitzsimmons (Mary-Louise Parker) has every right to ask it. On Christmas Eve she's hoping her hus-



band will gift her with the puppy she's been hinting about; instead he tells her the crash she hears downstairs is the hit man he's hired to kill her. Escaping through the snow in her nightgown, she hitches a ride with a guy named Lloyd (Michael O'Keefe) who's run away from his own life and set up house with a deaf-mute paraplegic named Pooty (Rosie Perez) who turns out not to be deaf after all. And we doubt her birth certificate reads "Pooty" at any rate.

On Christmas Eve, Rachel (Mary-Louise Parker) relaxes, thinking all is well. It's not.

Reckless has the surface charm of an absurdist comedy but the dark undertow of a disturbing Jungian dream exposing the slipperiness of identity. Like French farce, the play requires fleetness and delicacy—among other things, the possibility exists that Rachel's string of adventures is one woman's midwinter night's dream. Lucas's longtime collaborator Norman René directed three versions of the play to soufflé per-

theater
review

Strictly by the numbers

Brooklyn is the work of newcomers, but it never breaks out of its tried-and-true mold

Brooklyn: The Musical ■ Book, music, and lyrics by Mark Schoenfeld and Barri McPherson ■ Directed by Jeff Calhoun ■ Plymouth Theatre, New York City (open-ended run)



The cast of *Brooklyn: The Musical*

grandiose, and no roof-raising vocal pyrotechnics too hackneyed to crank out one mo' time. Brooklyn (Eden Espinosa) is a Parisian-born orphan whose suicidal mother named her after her runaway dad's hometown. Of course,

The posse of five street singers who perform *Brooklyn: The Musical* offer audiences an inside glimpse of a homeless panhandler's dream life. Funny thing is, it looks remarkably like the average episode of *American Idol*, where no sentiment is too treacly, no backstory too shopworn, no ambition too

she grows up to be a pop star and travels to America to play Carnegie Hall and to track down her father, who turns out to be a heroin-addicted Vietnam vet. As a rising star she arouses the jealousy of Paradise (Ramona Keller), a sassy vixen whose big hit song, "Superlover," boasts of her bisexual lusts. Paradise challenges Brooklyn

fection (its 1983 premiere, a 1988 off-Broadway revival, and the 1995 movie starring Mia Farrow) before he died of AIDS-related complications in 1996. Alas, Mark Brokaw's Broadway rendition comes off lumpy and undercooked.

You'd think Parker would be perfect as Rachel. After all, she and Lucas have been a team of sorts since 1990, when she costarred with Alec Baldwin in *Prelude to a Kiss* and played the gay gang's girl-pal in the movie *Longtime Companion* (both directed by René). In shows like *Prelude*, *How I Learned to Drive*, *Proof* (for which she won just about every acting award possible), and HBO's *Angels in America*, Parker proved adept at playing someone whose sunny exterior was at odds with a turbulent soul. But *Reckless* calls for an intense, nuanced journey from ditzzy innocent to mute victim to wised-up woman that Parker's performance never quite completes.

The play's loving jabs at psychotherapy are the highlight of the show, thanks to Debra Monk's hilarious takes as six different therapists, one of whom hands Rachel a rolled-up yoga mat and shoves her toward a blow-up clown doll screaming, "Hit the father! Hit the father!" ■

Shewey writes on theater for The New York Times.

to a diva-showdown at Madison Square Garden to be judged by viewers watching at home on television. Do you see where this is going?

Espinoza (who understudied both leads in *Wicked*) and Keller (late of *Caroline, or Change*) have incredible voices and sing the hell out of lyrics like "I believed in miracles, that love conquered all, that anything was possible." This "sidewalk fairy tale," created by Broadway novices Mark Schoenfeld (who was briefly homeless himself) and Barri McPherson (who saved him from the streets) is staged by Jeff Calhoun as a story-theater mix of *Rent*, *Cats*, and *Godspell*. It would be a perfect episode for the *ABC Afterschool Specials*. On Broadway it looks like a big old plate of microwaved leftovers. —D.S.

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Green Day dawns anew

Green Day's Billie Joe Armstrong talks about the band's political and provocative new opus, *American Idiot*
By Kurt B. Reichley

Growing up around openly gay relatives would certainly seem to improve the odds of a child becoming a tolerant and open-minded adult. Well, perhaps *tolerant* isn't the best adjective for Billie Joe Armstrong, the lead singer and

"Faggot" phobia

When Green Day sing that they are the "faggot American Idiot," they are rejecting the "red-neck agenda" and "paranoia" that in their view are sweeping the nation. So there is some irony in the fact that the word "faggot" has been bleeped out of the song on a number of radio stations across the country, presumably because of its indecent nature.

Finding out the procedure for such an absurd act of censorship is not easy. Wade through the policy statements and obscenity violation documents the Federal Communications Commission makes available to the public, and you will fast get lost in a

sea of legal jargon. A spokeswoman for the FCC, however, says the FCC has no capability to police the airwaves and that the organization only responds to complaints from the public. "Only then can we determine the context of the complaint," she says.

That leads the search to Clear Channel Communications. The radio giant announced this year that it would institute a policy of "zero tolerance" for indecent content. Despite repeated calls to get an answer about the Green Day bleeping on Clear Channel stations, company represen-

tatives were unavailable for comment. Maybe they were avoiding any press, since that very week Howard Stern announced that he was leaving all Clear Channel stations and was headed to satellite radio system Sirius, which is not liable to fines from the FCC.

"Bleeping a word like 'faggot' in this instance is not because the FCC has ever ruled on a case like this, but because people are afraid," explains Elliot Mincberg, vice president and legal director of People for the American Way. "It's, unfortunately, one of





Clerical workers (from left):
Mike Dirnt, Armstrong, and
Tré Cool of Green Day

guitarist for punk band
Green Day; their new
album, *American Idiot*,
is a scathing examination

of the confusion permeating American life in the early 21st century. But when Armstrong speaks of his gay uncle—"named, believe it or not, Stonewall Jackson"—it is with certainty. And pride.

"He was part of my family from the time I was born," recalls Armstrong, 32. "It never even occurred to me that [being gay] was something that was supposed to be offensive." Alas, not all his kin felt similar warmth. "He was my mother's brother, and the women of my family were always more sensitive to the issue...a lot more so than my redneck uncles."

Armstrong also cites the Berkeley, Calif., music scene as influential on his outlook. "Being from the Bay Area...it's all about the alternative lifestyle. Punk rock was about being an individual and coming to your own conclusions." When Green Day ►

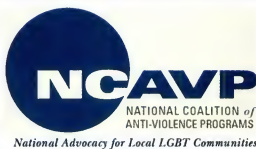
many examples of the chilling effect the FCC has had in causing many broadcasters to go far beyond the definition of indecency to block artistic works."

"'Faggot' is not a word which would qualify as indecent," believes Marjorie Heins, founder of the Free Expression Policy Project in New York City. "This is clearly an instance of corporate censorship on the part of Clear Channel. Since the FCC is not involved, the First Amendment doesn't read that as an issue. Clear Channel is deciding that for its own marketing strategy or corporate ideology that it wants to bleep out a word, and therefore it's not a First Amendment issue. However, it is a serious problem. It wouldn't matter if they only owned a couple of stations, but they own over 1,200."

—Mike Goodridge

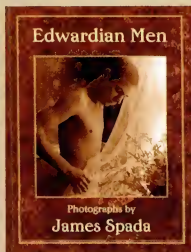
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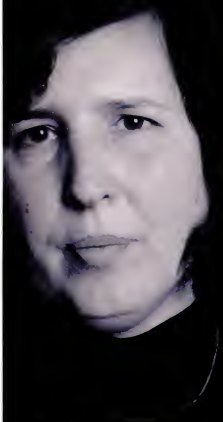
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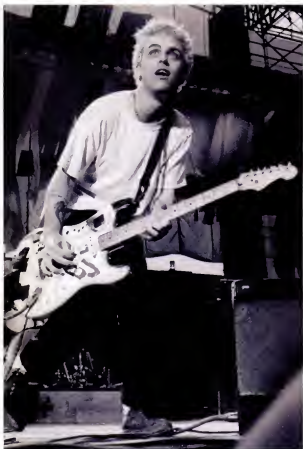
Advocate

(which also includes bassist Mike Dirnt and drummer Tré Cool) broke out nationally in 1994 with the Grammy award-winning *Dookie*, they stayed true to those ethics, taking queer rockers Pansy Division out on tour as their warm-up act.

Yet Green Day have fallen afoul of corporate media with their hit single "American Idiot," with certain stations censoring the couplet "Maybe I am the faggot America / I'm not a part of a redneck agenda." "I thought that they would be more into bleeping out 'redneck agenda,'" notes Armstrong, chuckling. Did he fret over his word choice? "There was a fear of people thinking I was using ['faggot'] in a derogatory way, but I thought of it as empowering. Hell, nobody ever called me 'redneck' in high school."

American Idiot is an ambitious, thematically unified album; some critics are already comparing it to rock operas like the Who's *Tommy*. Two of the disc's tracks, "Jesus of Suburbia" and "Homecoming," top out at over nine minutes each—that's an eon in punk years. "Letterbomb" features guest vocals by Kathleen Hanna of seminal riot grrrl quartet Bikini Kill and lesbian-feminist ensemble Le Tigre. "She's one of my favorite singers in the world," Armstrong gushes. "If they made a car called Kathleen Hanna, I would drive one."

Public response to *American Idiot* has been bracing; the disc entered the album charts at number 1. Reviewing their recent spot on *Late Show With David Letterman*, the same night that John Kerry appeared, Charles Taylor of Salon.com noted, "Green Day played as if their music had the power to pick up Bush and Cheney by the throat and shake them lifeless." But regardless of the election's results, Green Day will soldier on. "I'm just going to



"There was a fear of people thinking I was using ['faggot'] in a derogatory way, but I thought of it as empowering. Hell, nobody ever called me 'redneck' in high school."

keep singing and writing songs," concludes Armstrong. "And, hopefully, someday Bush will be put on trial for war crimes." ■

Reighley is the author of Looking for the Perfect Beat (MTV/Pocket Books).

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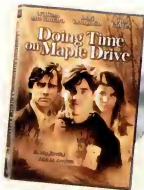
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All dressed up: Psychic TV (featuring P-Orridge, third from left) and Toilet Boys (below) work it.

music reviews

Glam? Thank you, ma'am

Gender blenders Genesis Breyer P-Orridge and Toilet Boys return with new releases **By Kurt B. Reighley**



Godstar: Thee Director's Cut
■ Psychic TV ■ Voiceprint

Early Years ■ Toilet Boys
■ Ozit Morpheus

Androgyny in rock is nothing new, from Little Richard's powder and pomade to that tightly corseted terror Marilyn Manson. But genuine drag queens and transgendered individuals who achieve musical notoriety are rarer: Sylvester, RuPaul, Jayne (né Wayne) County. But with the release of a pair of archival CDs, two more artists can be added to that list.

Genesis Breyer P-Orridge has been a counterculture icon for three decades. His band Throbbing Gristle, formed in London in the mid '70s, minted the genre

known as industrial music, setting the template for later acts like Nine Inch Nails. After the dissolution of Throbbing Gristle, P-Orridge launched *Psychic TV*, an '80s ensemble whose output ranged from white noise odysseys to early forays into acid house.

In recent years, Genesis and his spouse, Lady Jaye Breyer P-Orridge, have garnered attention by undergoing medical procedures to eliminate their physical differences. The two hope to create a new gender, the pandrogyme, similar to the hermaphroditic ancient people mentioned in *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*.

So, anyway, *Psychic TV*: In 1986 the band scored a U.K. hit with "Godstar," a psychedelic dance track inspired by Rolling Stones founder Brian Jones. That song was intended as the centerpiece of a Jones biopic and accompanying soundtrack. Now, *Godstar: The Director's Cut* brings the complete musical half of that unrealized work to light. The music doesn't always measure up to the project's ambitions, but it frequently comes close, particularly throughout the first of its two CDs.

This fall a newly reformed *Psychic TV* (PTV3), fronted by the Breyer P-Orridges, is touring North America. Instrumental in convincing Genesis to reactivate the band was drummer Eddie O'Dowd of New York ensemble the Toilet Boys. O'Dowd, who also plays in PTV3, is no stranger to artists who confound gender roles: The Toilet Boys are fronted by Miss Guy, the whipper-thin drag queen who DJ'd at New York City's long-running queer rock club, Squeezebox.

While *Psychic TV* drew inspiration from the '60s on *Godstar*, the Toilet Boys—who have played with big acts like Rancid and the Red Hot Chili Peppers—look to a later generation of rebels for theirs. On *Early Years*, a retrospective of out-of-print, live, and unreleased tracks, Guy's love for Bowie and Blondie is married to hard-driving riffs and sudden tempo shifts, yielding classic punk with metal overtones. "Good Girl" celebrates the transformative power of makeup; "Paul Stanley (Was a Lady)" is a love letter to the Kiss guitarist; and "Squeezebox Baby" name-checks the individuals who made that defunct party such a hot spot. Too bad Breyer P-Orridge isn't among them, just to bring things full circle. ■

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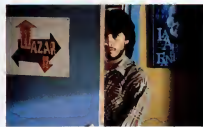
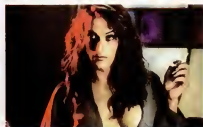
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music review

Cover girls

Lesbians on Ecstasy creates joyous and outlandish riffs
on dyke classics **By Sara Marcus**

Lesbians on Ecstasy

■ Lesbians on Ecstasy ■ Alien 8

Every subset of lesbian culture has its own soundtrack. Are you a leather-jacketed Melissa Etheridge lover? A flannel-clad Indigo Girls enthusiast? A tattooed Team Dresch fan? Now all these constituencies can get down at the same party thanks to Lesbians on Ecstasy—a Montreal band that dusts off standards from the lesbian songbooks and reimagines them as

electronic dance anthems that everybody can shake a leg to.

Sultry songs become ominous and aggressive in the hands of the Lesbians. In "Kündstant Kroving," an industrial remake of k.d. lang's similarly titled hit, the verse's melody turns into a violent synthesizer riff as singer Frankie Fearless snarls in a voice laden with horror-movie effects. The Lesbians' version of Tracy Chapman's "Revolution" brilliantly tips a hat to two pioneers of revolutionary music: The edgily funky bass and jagged guitars evoke Marxist





Here's to the ladies of LOX (from left): Jackie the Jackhammer, Bernie Bankrupt, Fruity Frankie, and Véronique Mystique

postpunkers Gang of Four, and the chorus's excited shouts refer to riot grrrr progenitors Bikini Kill. And don't miss "Closer to the Dark," a dizzyingly postapocalyptic reinvention of the Indigo Girls' "Prince of Darkness."

The tracks on this invigorating debut album aren't exactly covers; some share only four words or a single riff with the original songs. Few people will be familiar with all the references, which range from mainstream lesbian icons like Etheridge and lang to defunct Canadian indie bands like Parachute Club and Fifth Column; you may find yourself wishing for some footnotes. But you don't have to know all the source material to know that Lesbians on Ecstasy are serious fun—and to realize that you have no choice but to join the party. ■

Marcus writes about music for Time Out New York and is political editor at Heeb.

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music review

Everything fans want

Want Two feels a bit like Rufus Wainwright vamping until his next album—but the enclosed concert DVD is a must for devotees of the out troubadour **By Michael Giltz**

Want Two (CD-DVD combo)

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Elton John has called Rufus Wainwright an “as-yet unheralded American treasure,” and one imagines Wainwright would respond, with the casual confidence he exudes, “Quite true.”

Treasure? Yes. But unheralded? His near-perfect 2003 album, *Want One*, was hailed by critics, hitting number 12 on *The Village Voice*'s annual Pazz & Jop Critics' Poll. Wainwright has a small role in Martin Scorsese's Oscar hopeful *The Aviator*. And despite upheavals at his record label, Wainwright has just released this CD-DVD combo.

It's more than a collection of odds and ends from the *Want* sessions but less than a proper follow-up to that CD. We've been told it's the “weird” stuff, but since *Want One* was already pretty darn eccentric, that doesn't prove quite true. Sure, the opener, “Agnus Dei,” is a lovely Latin choral hymn, and the closer, “An Old Whore's Diet” (a duet with Antony and the Johnsons), is an almost nine-minute wig-out. But almost everything here would have sounded right at home on *Want One*.



strongest tracks here. But they didn't belong, either thematically or musically, on that earlier album, which is more upbeat than this mellow affair. Wainwright knows the importance of creating an album that flows, that takes you somewhere. He produced a double album's worth of music, but *Want One* is stronger for not including them all. And *Want Two* is fine for fans who can't wait for his next magnum opus.

What makes this truly worthwhile, however, is the concert DVD. It has 90 minutes of Wainwright performing at

The witty “Little Sister,” “The Art Teacher” (a lovely man who is the protagonist's favorite work of art), and concert favorite “Gay Messiah” are among the

the Fillmore Auditorium, interspersed with brief segments of him wandering through San Francisco. He's in fine form, and the show is mercifully free of frenetic editing and quick cuts.

You know Wainwright is in full control when he segues from the rousing “I Don't Know What It Is” to the quiet, wrenching “Dinner at Eight,” and the crowd remains in the palm of his hand. His openhearted performance—so self-dramatizing, so self-aware, so funny when it isn't moving—can't help but bring to mind another drama queen, Judy Garland. Surely it's only a matter of time before Wainwright's gorgeous voice tackles the standards. ■

Giltz is a regular contributor to several periodicals, including the New York Post.



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"A lot of my characters are outsiders. It comes from being an outsider twice over—my queerness and my ethnicity. I think it's a gift, though. In life it may not be a gift, but in art it is."

books

Han Ong returns

The queer Filipino literary phenomenon is back with a provocative new novel

New York playwright and novelist Han Ong put himself on the map in 2001 with the celebrated *Fixer Chao*, the delicious tale of a street hustler hired by a journalist to pose as a feng shui master, the better to exploit clueless New York high society. Now comes Ong's poignant and funny second novel, *The Disinherited*. Set in the author's native Philippines, Ong's story follows Roger Caracera, the estranged heir to a sugar fortune, as he looks for a worthy recipient of his unexpected inheritance.

"I went to a gathering at the MacArthur Foundation, and someone at the podium said, 'People don't know how difficult it is to give away money well,'" says Ong. "So that was the seed.

When I began writing the novel, though, it wasn't immediate to me that the protagonist would inherit money and want to give it away. He was going to be a Barbara Pym character: a sleepy character who is awakened by life."

The person Caracera ends up hoping to benefit is the street boy his deceased uncle had loved. "I've written enough now," says Ong, "to figure out I have a recurring tendency, which is that a lot of my characters are outsiders. It comes from being an outsider twice over—my queerness and my ethnicity. I think it's a gift, though. In life it may not be a gift, but in art it is."

He feels lucky too that his work has been so well received and is starting to appear in college classrooms. "I'm a high school dropout," he explains, "so my relationship to books is one of great

pleasure and joy because I'm not reading in an atmosphere of obligation."

Despite—and in part because of—his success, Ong hasn't returned to the Philippines since he came to the United States. "I was 16 when I came here. Now I'm 36," he says. "Four years ago, I thought of going back. It would have been [a return after] 16 years, so that I

was half formed here and half formed there." But 2000 turned out to be a busy year. "Now I'm waiting for some other seemingly serendipitous event," he says. "I'm not particularly fond of looking back, though. It's like running a race looking over your shoulder."

Asked what his family thinks about his novels and plays, Ong laughs. "I haven't spoken to them about it," he says. "Like all good Asian families, it's a paradox. They're probably pleased about any success I have, but what I actually write would be a huge source of contention. I honestly hope they don't read the books. I'm writing with a great freedom, and the only way I can do that is by not thinking about my family reading it." —Regina Marler



book
review

Passions past

Acclaimed Irish novelist
Emma Donoghue spins a
world of pansexual intrigue
in 18th-century London

Life Mask

■ Emma Donoghue
■ Harcourt ■ \$26

If you have a weak heart or just a short attention span, keep your distance from Emma Donoghue's intricately woven and luxuriously paced fourth novel, *Life Mask*, the story of the 12th Earl of Derby's 16-year courtship of the comedic actress Eliza Farren and of Eliza's ambiguous and socially dangerous friendship with the sculptor

Anne Damer, rumored to be a sapphist. These are real figures from the London beau monde of the 18th century. Derby was a Whig politician whose name is immortalized by the horse race

he founded, and Damer's bust of Farren can be seen at the National Portrait Gallery in London. But if history has put them on the same chessboard, it's Donoghue—out author of the best-selling *Slammerkin*—who pushes them toward and away from each other for our benefit, skillfully teasing out the possibilities between Damer and Farren from only the slightest hints in the historical record.

—R.M.



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book review

Editors' picks

Funny, sharp, bold, fresh—here are books we're talking about

How I Paid for College:

A Novel of Sex, Theft, Friendship & Musical Theater

■ Marc Acito ■ Broadway ■ \$19.95



There's a lot of buzz about this out-there farce by out syndicated humorist Acito, and why not? It's funny enough to make you laugh even when no one's around to hear.

The plot goes thus: Edward Zanni, a New Jersey teen consumed with the desire to study acting at Juilliard, learns to his horror that (a) his dad won't pay, and (b) thanks to said dad, he's too well-off to qualify for financial aid. Edward sets out to steal the tuition from his father, aided and abetted by a brace of wacky friends who'll strike a reminiscent chord in anybody who ever loved (and hated) high-school drama club.

Modern Ranch Living

■ Mark Jude Poirier ■ Miramax

■ \$23.95



Anyone familiar with the bland sunbaked suburbs of the American Southwest will see what perfect use Mark Jude Poirier makes of his Tucson upbringing in his second novel, *Modern Ranch Living*. Sixteen-year-old bodybuilder Kendra Lumm veers between protein-

rich snacks and bouts of abusive behavior. This summer she is puzzling over the secret jockstrap collection her brother has stashed under the porch and the disappearance of her marker-sniffing former boyfriend. Meanwhile, her neighbor Merv, who manages Splash World water park and still lives at home at 30, conducts vague forays into the world of adulthood. Poirier's characters are believably eccentric, and his plots teem with the plausible weirdness of desert towns.

Mondo Homo: Your Essential Guide to Queer Pop Culture

■ Edited by Richard Andreoli

■ Alyson ■ \$17.95



Everybody knows gays are light years ahead of the larger culture, so why don't they realize that gay pop iconography long ago moved past Judy Garland and Bette Davis? This lively guide will get you (and your hipness-challenged straight friends) up to speed on the gay world according to 20- to 30-year-olds. Included are such phenomena as Sid and Marty Kroff, Shawn Colvin, Hole, *Strangers With Candy*, and—that holy of holies—*Glitter*. Indispensable.

Becoming a Visible Man

■ Jamison Green ■ Vanderbilt

■ \$24.95



Well-known as a transgender activist and educator, Jamison Green turns out to be an engaging writer as well; his memoir reflects the same calming energy that has made him so effective as a spokesman on transgender issues. Green covers a childhood in which strangers saw him as a boy even when he wore a dress; an adolescence spent struggling to decipher his awakening desire for girls; adulthood as a lesbian in San Francisco; and the determination to undergo sex-reassignment surgery that crystallized when, despite his then-female body, his baby daughter called him "daddy."

She's Not There: A Life in Two Genders

■ Jennifer Finney Boylan ■ Broadway
■ \$24.95



More novelistic than Jamison Green's book, this personal account of a male-to-female trans life has kick and an unruly sense of humor. Boylan is the

cochair of the English department at Maine's Colby College and, incidentally, a onetime roommate of vanguard screenwriter Charlie Kaufman. Boylan is especially fine on the awkwardness of what—now that menopause is old hat—has come to be called “the change.”

Firelands

■ Michael Jensen ■ Alyson
■ \$14.95



Jensen won fans with *Frontiers*, his gay-sexy novel of early America and the young man we now know as Johnny Appleseed. Now

Jensen takes us back to the frontier for a tale of gay love with a supernatural twist, as frontiersman Cole Seavey and a Delaware brave named Pakim explore unfamiliar feelings while they track an eight-foot-tall monster tribesmen call “the wendigo.”

The M Word: Writers on Same-Sex Marriage

■ Edited by Kathy Pories ■ Algonquin
■ \$12.95



This is not another pro-and-con political primer about why marriage matters—nor that there's anything wrong with them. Still, *The M Word* may strike

you as a welcome change of pace. Editor Kathy Pories lets 11 intriguing writers loose on the topic of same-sex marriage, reaping an irreverent collection of personal essays that get past the doctrinaire discourse that—let's be honest—has made us yawn even though we have everything at stake.

—Anne Stockwell, Regina Marter

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NEW FEATURE

Shania Twain

Our favorite Canadian-born crossover goddess has long since proved that there's nobody—gay, straight, or otherwise—who doesn't love her music. In November the queen of exclamatory song titles ("Man! I Feel Like a Woman!" "UP!") delivers *Shania Twain: Greatest Hits* (Mercury Nashville), complete with three new tracks. Man! Do we feel stoked about it! Yeah!



What do Shania drag queens absolutely need in their fashion collection?

Good question! Something leopard-print—Dolce & Gabbana has lots of that. Gays love Dolce.

Which of the three new songs on your greatest hits CD is most likely to be remixed into a dance hit?

"Party for Two," definitely! It's the new single.

Why?

The opening line is "Hey, Billy, wanna come?"

Let's talk about "Man! I Feel Like a Woman!" How does it feel to have written such a great cross-dressing anthem?

It's something I'm really proud of. A lot of the stuff I do has such a feminine, female perspective, but a powerful one. It's not only girl power, it's gay power. Yeah, it's G power. I think that song really stands for both.

You used to go to gay clubs with your friends in Toronto. What's your favorite memory of those outings?

I'll tell you a naive memory. There was a group of guys who all wore makeup, and we'd all get ready together. Lots of eyeliner and hair spray and gel—Dep, the Dep days. Then we'd go to gay clubs and just have fun. Looking back, I'm like, "Wow! Some of those guys must have been gay!"

If you had to go to a costume party as one of country music's classic divas, who would you choose?

Dolly Parton! Of course I would be Dolly! I would love to wear just one of her wigs.

What would you say to all your gay and lesbian fans who are still in the closet?

Oh, my, come out! We're having a party! —Dennis Hensley

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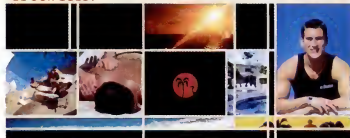
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Hold the assimilation

Two years ago, my partner, daughter, and I moved from San Francisco to Northampton, Mass. Noho, as the locals call it, has a lesbian mayor and a critical mass of dykes. Women walk arm in arm down Main Street, frequently and unafraid. In my daughter's first-grade class at least four out of 19 kids have lesbian moms. And we have legalized

same-sex marriage in the entire state.

Noho is known as a lesbian mecca. Yet something doesn't add up. There are no lesbian or gay newspapers; no visible lesbian political organizations, cultural groups, or events; no hot spot in town to have coffee or shoot pool. The one lesbian-owned restaurant has no rainbow flag or double woman symbol to identify it. There is one queer bookstore, and once you're here awhile you do hear about queer activities. But gay pride was so poorly publicized my first year here that we almost needed a detective to locate it. Gay bashing seldom occurs, but in 1995 over 50% of the voters rejected a domestic-partnership ordinance.

This is gay-friendly?

People from the mayor on down constantly tell me that we're "woven" into the larger community. We're not ghettoized into gay neighborhoods. We live our lives like everyone else, and no one bothers us. What could be wrong with that?

Yet a few years ago, when we weren't "woven" in, there was a bustling and highly visible lesbian community, including several women's restaurants, the Greasy Gorgon Garage, the Nutcracker Suite Karate Dojo, and a monthly calendar and newsletter. There were three lesbian bars, two women's bookstores (and a partridge in a pear

tree). These have all vanished. And not just in Noho. Women's bookstores, bars, clubs are closing down everywhere. They say we need our separate culture less now that mainstream attitudes are changing.

I disagree.

The world we are woven into hasn't magically lost its homopho-



Author and daughter in 1999

bia. Listen to George W., the Republican Party, and talk-radio hosts vilify us and organize to write us out of the Constitution. Even in my "progressive" sector of the globe, no one (including other lesbians) will even say the word "lesbian" unless I say it first. When our mailbox was vandalized we worried—unlike our straight neighbors—if it was more than just a random act. In our ultrawhite, conservative community five miles from central Noho, we stick out like sore thumbs—not

only for being two women, but also for having a child who isn't white like her moms. Our neighbors even objected to the bright red stripe we painted on the foundation of our house. Queer Nation was right: Assimilation is not liberation. There's still a need, lesbian mecca or not, for queer-only spaces.

Unfortunately, weaving in has meant that lesbian—and especially lesbian-feminist—voices are becoming extinct. Not just in the mainstream, but also in the feminist and gay worlds. Lesbians have always been at the helm of pro-choice battles (even though pregnancy prevention is not our most pressing issue).

Why are we not regularly covered in feminist magazines? We're women; sexism hurts us too. When the AIDS epidemic hit, lesbians mobilized en masse to care and fight for our gay brothers. Where has this tremendous effort been reciprocated? In so-called gay and lesbian periodicals coverage of lesbians is sometimes as scant as 10% of the total; nowhere does it come close to approaching 50%. The word *feminist* appears as often as Bush's grammatically correct sentences.

Here are two ways to alter course. We lesbians need to speak out more on our own behalf, wherever we are. And more gay men need to continue the legacy of their gay predecessors (Marlon Riggs, the Radical Faeries) who courageously fought against sexism. Silence does equal death.

I don't want to weave into any world, het or gay, at the cost of losing the lesbian world. We shouldn't have to. Our neighbors are going to have to learn to handle a splash of color. We're here; we're queer; we're not weaving in. ■

**Queer Nation was right: Assimilation is not liberation.
There's still a need, in a lesbian mecca or not, for queer-only spaces.**



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